SPECIAL TACTICS

TACTICAL

HOME DEFENSE AND SECURITY

DEFEND YOURSELF AND FAMILY AGAINST HOME INVASION AND DEADLY ATTACK

DEVELOPED BY SPECIAL OPERATIONS VETERANS

TACTICAL

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SPECIAL TACTICS™

Special Tactics, LLC

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To those who have gone before us, the living and the fallen

COURSE OVERVIEW
A Tactical Approach to Home Defense

There are many courses, books, and resources available to people seeking to improve their home defense and security. However, due to the nature of any commercial market, many of these sources are primarily concerned with getting people to install a particular security system, buy a certain firearm or adopt some other supposed solution to their security problem. While most of these courses, books, tools, and approaches have merit, some try to suggest that there is a single, magical solution to securing your home and family. Unfortunately, such easy solutions do not exist and while any security measure you take will likely have a positive effect, only a deeper understanding and mastery of tactical, defensive concepts can significantly increase your safety.

Therefore, the purpose of this book is not to offer or sell a magical solution to home security. In fact, whenever possible, this book avoids providing specific solutions or formulas. There is an important reason for this. The home security mission is extremely broad and varied. If you ask a law enforcement officer, security professional or tactician about how to secure your home, anyone with real-world experience will have many more questions than answers. What sort of threats are you defending against? Do you live in an apartment or on a farm? Do you live in a big house or small house? Do you live alone or with your family?

There are countless factors, specific to your situation that influence the best way to secure your home. Therefore, if this book provided fixed formulas or checklists, those rigid solutions would likely not apply to your situation and could even end up being counterproductive or dangerous. This book aims to provide general examples, key concepts and building blocks that can apply in many different situations in different combinations. Therefore, while this book might not give you a formula or prescription for home defense, it will give you many tools that you can use to develop a custom-tailored plan that fits your specific requirements.

Even if the individual tools and techniques in this book do not prove useful, the deeper purpose of this book is to encourage you to become more security conscious and think about security in new creative ways. Unfortunately, most people devote little time and attention to security. The misconception that "it can never happen to me," is all too common in modern society. Many people do not realize the fallacy of this misconception until it is too late. Even if

you are already security conscious, there are always ways to improve your security and adapt to ever-changing threats. This book can help you do that.

This book is not specifically based on standard trends and practices in the home security industry. Instead, this book takes concepts from military tactics, law enforcement tactical units and high-threat protection/intelligence operations and adapts them to a civilian home-defense scenario. Therefore, the approaches in this book may or may not align with other security training you have experienced that is specifically tailored for civilians in a domestic environment. The terms used in this book might not match standard industry terminology and are instead intended to be as simple and descriptive as possible.

That being said, this book is not meant to contradict or replace existing civilian training materials or programs, but rather provide an additional, tactically-focused perspective to help expand your defense capabilities. Therefore, this book does not concentrate on topics that are typically the main focus of other security training approaches such as security systems and the latest sensor technologies. While we discuss these topics, we try to address them at the conceptual level to help you understand how various devices and sensors tie into a larger defensive plan.

Given this book's tactical/military perspective, in some cases you might find the following security suggestions to be extreme or paranoid. While we would argue that it is better safe than sorry when it comes to security, it is likely that you will decide not to apply all of the recommendations in this book. There is nothing wrong with that and even if you use only one or two of the suggestions in this book, you will be safer than if you do not take any security measures at all. Ultimately you need to find a security approach that fits with your lifestyle and the needs and preferences of your family members. We provide many options in this book but that does not mean you need to employ all of them.

Finally, this book addresses several important topics very superficially. Given the depth of the home security topic, we did not want to write a book that was so long that no one would read it. Like most of our books, we believe that the more information we can pack into each page the better. This is particularly the case in a book that is intended for such a wide audience with such diverse needs. If we spend 100-pages talking about security dogs, those pages would be of limited value to readers who do not even own a dog.

We therefore try to provide very short but useful introductions to larger topics such as weapons training, empty-hand defensive tactics and security dog employment. We believe that all readers could benefit from a short introduction to these topics and if you want further training or more information on any given subject, Special Tactics provides a growing selection of tactical books, online courses and in-person training that might meet your needs. Otherwise, there are many other good trainers and security professionals who might be able to help.

INTRODUCTION
The Four Pillars of Survival

The "four pillars" of survival are proper mindset, situational awareness, skill proficiency and physical fitness. These pillars form the basis for success in all combat situations. This manual is intended not only to teach specific techniques, but rather to increase the reader's actual chances of survival and success in a real-life emergency. An expert marksman who is not mentally prepared for the stress of combat and not ready to employ lethal force can lose to an untrained adversary. Lack of situational awareness, even for a moment, can cause an experienced fighter to fall victim to unskilled enemies. Therefore, any combat training program must rest on the following four pillars.

Proper Mindset

Proper mindset is the most critical of the four pillars. In the simplest terms, people with the proper mindset devote significant time and energy to protecting themselves and their loved ones from the worst-case scenario. Many people will learn to shoot a pistol or study a martial art but their skills decline quickly because they fail to practice frequently enough. Having the proper mindset means being tough, determined, never cutting corners, and taking every precaution to ensure survival. In a combat situation, having the proper mindset means being prepared to employ lethal force without hesitation and never quitting during the fight regardless of fear or pain. The training suggestions in this manual will help you develop the proper mindset.

Situational Awareness

Lack of situational awareness is one of the leading causes of failure or death in combat situations. In modern society, most people's situational awareness is very low. They generally spend their day wrapped up in their own thoughts and problems and pay little attention to what is going on

around them. People who live in relatively secure environments fall into even deeper levels of complacency and unpreparedness. The mentality of, "it can't happen to me," can ultimately prove to be disastrously wrong. Most victims of crime, terrorism and other deadly attacks lived their lives thinking, "it can't happen to me."

People with the proper mindset understand the importance of situational awareness and make disciplined efforts to cultivate it. Situational awareness begins with awareness of the threat and awareness that bad things can happen to anyone. Situational awareness involves trying to remain alert at all times without being paranoid. Situational awareness also involves keeping up with local news, and studying trends in violent crime. Those committed to protecting their families might conduct research to identify registered sex offenders in their area. When you travel to a new city, it is useful to learn which neighborhoods have a higher crime rate and plan your route accordingly. The best way to improve your situational awareness is to make a conscious effort to continually cultivate and improve it.

Skill Proficiency

Once you have the proper mindset and maintain good situational awareness, the next step is to ensure you have the proper skills or "tools" to protect yourself in a combat situation. When striving to improve skill proficiency it is important to choose the best skills and techniques that are simple, effective, easy to perform and can realistically apply to a real-life scenario. Then you must practice these techniques repeatedly until they become second nature. This will maximize the chances that you will respond immediately in a high-stress situation. The central focus of this manual is to help you build skill proficiency.

Physical Fitness

Fitness is a critical but often overlooked factor that affects your chances of survival in a combat situation. Even skilled fighters with the proper mindset and high levels of situational awareness can lose a fight simply because they run out of energy. In order to maintain adequate levels of combat fitness, you do not need to achieve the same fitness level as a professional or Olympic athlete. Rather, the key is merely to stay healthy, maintain a decent level of cardiovascular endurance, running speed, functional strength, and coordination. Popular commercial fitness programs don't always focus on the most useful abilities needed for combat. For example, many people jog but how many also run sprints to build speed? Simply being able to run fast without falling is one of the most critical survival skills in a gunfight or emergency situation, yet most people rarely practice sprinting. For those interested in combat fitness, Special Tactics provides a range of books and courses on the subject.

HASTY DEFENSE
Putting a Plan in Place Right Away

One problem that leads to weak or lax home defense is the fact that improving home security can often fall into the category with fitness programs or weight loss, something that we know we want to do but we put it off again and again for various reasons. You may think that improving home security starts with buying a security system, but maybe you need to wait on that purchase because personal funds are short at the moment. You might have limited experience with firearms and decide to start your personal security efforts with buying a gun, but maybe you are waiting to talk to a trusted relative who is a law enforcement officer or experienced shooter to ask about what to buy and you have not gotten around to calling them.

In this way, home security preparation can get pushed further and further into the future when in reality, there is a great deal you can do immediately (when you put down this book) to start improving your home security. It is also important to get started right away because while it might seem paranoid to some, a deadly attack might come today, tomorrow or while you are in the process of setting up your security. Anything is possible and you don't want the threat to beat you to the punch. Therefore, we recommend you establish a hasty home defense plan today, before finishing this book, so there is at least something in place while you move on to establish a more deliberate and detailed plan.

Establishing a Hasty Home Defense Plan

You will learn many techniques in this book to help you establish a detailed and effective home defense and security plan. However, if we took too much time at this point explaining how to establish a hasty home defense plan it would defeat the purpose of the hasty plan. A hasty plan is a plan that you can implement right now. It might be very simple, it might be flawed or incomplete but it will be better than nothing and it will provide temporary security in the unlikely but possible event that an attack comes in the next few days or weeks while you are building your more deliberate plan.

Therefore, when establishing your hasty plan, simply use your brain and try to identify a few things you can do right now to make yourself safer. One first step might be sitting down with your family and talking about what you will do if someone breaks in to your house. You might make some quick assessments about what pieces of furniture are light enough to move in front of doors in an emergency to block out an attacker. You might check to see what windows in your house you might be able to open and safely crawl out of in an emergency. You might establish a system or checklist with your family to ensure all your doors are locked at all times.

Throughout your home defense planning, if you live with your family, it is a good idea to include them in the process as much as possible. Including family members in the security effort will help them take ownership of their roles and responsibilities as part of a team. Assigning small security-related tasks to younger children can help them feel important and will also help instill a security-conscious mindset at a young age. When the entire family operates as a unit, it will increase the situational awareness of all family members and improve information sharing. Ensuring all family members are aware of potential dangers and threats will help them cope with stress both during and after a crisis situation.

These are just a few basic suggestions of security enhancement measures that anyone could think of and execute immediately without having any security experience or additional resources. You do not need to spend a lot of time on your hasty plan. Rather, make your best effort, use common sense, and put the hasty plan into place immediately. Just going through the mental exercise of hasty planning can prove incredibly helpful if someone actually does break in to your home. Because you have mentally rehearsed and thought through the scenario before, you will be much better prepared and more calm when faced with a threat.

Starting Necessary Movement

Part of your hasty plan should also include getting things moving with aspects of your larger security plan that will take more time and delegating tasks to other people in your family or network so they can start working on them. For example, if your plan includes buying a security system, you may ask your spouse to help and start looking into various options and prices. If there is a local neighborhood watch organization, you might ask another family member to make contact with the organization to learn more about it. If you do not own a firearm and there are legal or administrative hurdles you have to go through in order to get one, you may want to start that process right away.

It is up to you how detailed you want to get in your defensive planning. The more detailed and closely-coordinated your plan is, the less chance there will be for things to fall through the cracks or go wrong. However, it is also possible to get too wrapped up in planning details and end up wasting time and slowing your own forward movement. That being said, it when starting movement on longer-term tasks, it might be helpful to create a simple task list and calendar to keep track of what needs to be done and the expected time horizon for each effort. In some cases you can set specific time limits for accomplishing certain tasks and in other cases you can mark down tentative dates when you expect certain information to come in etc. The task list and

calendar can also be very useful if you have delegated tasks to others to allow everyone to keep track of progress.

Check and Verify your Hasty Plan

Once your hasty plan is in place and you have started necessary movement towards longer-term goals, you should conduct a quick test of your plan if possible. There is no fixed way of doing this and it might be as simple as sitting with your family and having a quick discussion or review of the plan, looking for any major problems or flaws. Whenever conducting collaborative planning sessions like this it is important that one person not do all of the talking. While there might be one person who is leading the effort, that person should go around the room and make sure everyone has a chance to contribute and share ideas. Sometimes it is the youngest or least experienced person who can point out a flaw in a plan that everyone else missed.

Checking your plan might also include performing some quick tests or rehearsals. If you tasked one of your children to make sure all the doors in the house are locked each night, you may want to conduct a quick check yourself to make sure the job was completed properly. If your plan included determining some key steps that each person in your family should take in an emergency, you might want to quickly quiz your family members to ensure they remember critical information. The goal is not to sharpshoot or criticize mistakes but rather to help everyone improve and start building an effective defensive team.

THREAT ASSESSMENT
Most Likely and Most Dangerous Threats

The first step to establishing any defensive plan is to identify potential threats. How can you plan for the worst-case scenario if you have not thought through what that scenario might be. A defensive plan is reactive in nature. You are reacting to the actions of a threat, so in order to react appropriately, you must anticipate as much as possible what that threat might be. In military planning, the intelligence collection and threat assessment is a very detailed and extensive process. In most home defense scenarios, you will not need to go into as much detail but the same general planning principles still apply. When conducting a threat assessment as part of a defensive plan you will: 1) Conduct pattern analysis, 2) Prioritize threats, 3) Anticipate threat courses of action, 4) Develop plans to counter the threat.

STEP 1 – Conduct Pattern Analysis

The first step to better understanding potential threats is to study patterns of what is already going in the threat environment. This study can be as basic or as detailed as you feel is necessary but it is critical to conduct at least some pattern analysis if you hope to develop an effective home defense plan. At the most basic level, conduct an internet search to learn about home invasions, burglaries and deadly attacks that have taken place in your neighborhood. It can also be helpful to talk to local law enforcement officers and ask them questions about past attacks and current threats.

As you conduct your research, take some simple notes to keep track of what you learn. There is no fixed formula for conducting pattern analysis but if possible you want to start by breaking down past attacks by type, location, time of day etc. What are the most common types of attacks? In what areas are attacks more likely to take place? Which areas are safer? Do attacks almost always take place at night? What is the most dangerous time of day? Are there any registered sex offenders in your neighborhood? Your main objective is to look for notable patterns that might be helpful in your planning. Once again, you do not need to go into extreme

detail. You are just trying to get a general idea of your threat environment and capture key information in some sort of document or notebook for further analysis.

STEP 2 – Prioritize Threats Based on Likelihood vs. Severity

Once you have conducted your research and pattern analysis, write down a list of potential threats you are facing. The list does not have to be perfect and you may want to include additional threats on the list even if there were no prior instances of the threat in your pattern/historical analysis. Your next step is to prioritize your threats to help you focus your defensive preparations on the most dangerous possibilities.

When prioritizing threats you must always consider two key factors, threat likelihood and threat severity. Both factors play in to how serious a threat is and how much you should prioritize it. For example, some threats might be more likely but less severe. If there is a local gang in your neighborhood that is going around every day vandalizing property with spray paint, you could say that the threat is very likely (since it is happening every day) but if no one has been hurt or killed by the gang yet you might also determine that the threat is not as severe.

On the other hand, a deadly attack on your neighborhood by a heavily armed terrorist group may be much less likely but if it were to occur, many people would probably be killed. Therefore the severity of the threat would be very high. Every threat will fall into a certain category in terms of likelihood and severity. In most cases, the highest priority threats should be those that are both more likely to occur, and more severe if they do occur.

Given these two factors, the next step is to go down your list of threats and rank each one in terms of likelihood and severity. You can use whatever system you want but a simple 1-5 scale is often a good choice. When ranking each threat, you may want to refer back to your notes on past attacks and pattern analysis for more concrete information. The table below gives an example of what such a threat assessment table might look like.

THREAT	LIKELIHOOD	SEVERITY
Break-in by burglars (family is home)	2	4
Break-in by burglars (family is away from home)	3	3
Vandalism of property by local teenagers	5	1
Deadly attack by local criminal gang	2	5
Terrorist attack	1	5

You will note that the table above is not yet organized in order of priority. When prioritizing threats, you do not need to use a set mathematical process like adding up the values for likelihood and severity etc. Instead, it is best to just look at the numbers as a reference but use your own judgement or common sense. Ultimately, you might decide that even though a terrorist attack is the least likely, the extreme severity of such an attack might call for increased preparation or focus. Even though vandalism might not be as severe as other threats, you might decide to prioritize efforts to counter the vandalism because protecting your property is

particularly important to you. Ultimately, you must decide which threats to prioritize and focus on based on your personal needs and preferences. The table below gives an example of a prioritized threat list. Once again, these lists are very generalized and intended only for demonstration or explanatory purposes.

PRIORITY	THREAT	LIKELIHOOD	SEVERITY
1	Deadly attack by local criminal gang	2	5
2	Break-in by burglars (family is home)	2	4
3	Terrorist attack	1	5
4	Break-in by burglars (family is away from home)	3	3
5	Vandalism of property by local teenagers	5	1

STEP 3 – Anticipate Threat Courses of Action

Once you have prioritized your list of threats, the next step is to think through how each threat might actually play out in the real world. If a criminal gang comes to your house to kill you as part of an initiation process, what would that look like. Where would they come from? How many gang members would there be? If burglars broke in to your home, when might that happen? How might they try to gain access to your home?

Once again, while in military planning enemy courses of action can be extremely detailed, the goal here is not to waste too much time on analysis. In most home defense scenarios, the number of possibilities are somewhat limited compared to more complex military operations and the most likely threat courses of action are often fairly obvious. The key is to at least go through the process of thinking about each threat and how that threat might materialize in a real-life emergency. You may want to refer back to your notes on past attacks to help you make the most accurate predictions on likely threat courses of action.

As with every part of this planning process, it can be helpful to write things down as you go. When anticipating most likely threat courses of action you can take notes in written form on a computer or notepad or you can use a whiteboard or butcher block to draw out possible scenarios. The latter two options can be useful if you are planning collaboratively with your family. You might go to each family member and ask, "if you were trying to break into this house to steal things, how would you do it?"

Another useful technique is to have each family member come up with their own ideas in isolation. This technique avoids group think and prevents people from simply going along with the ideas of others. You can still be in the same room, just sit around the table and hand out blank pieces of paper to each person. Then ask them to take some quick notes on how they would break in to the house or what they expect an attacker might do. After each person writes down their notes you can get together and share your ideas and comments and compile ideas on the whiteboard.

However you determine your threat's most likely course of action, the goal is to have a simple reference where you can quickly visualize or review how you expect an attack to unfold. This analysis will form the basis for your own defensive plans. As mentioned in the beginning of this section, defense is reactive. Your reaction needs to be based on threat action or it will prove to be inappropriate or ineffective.

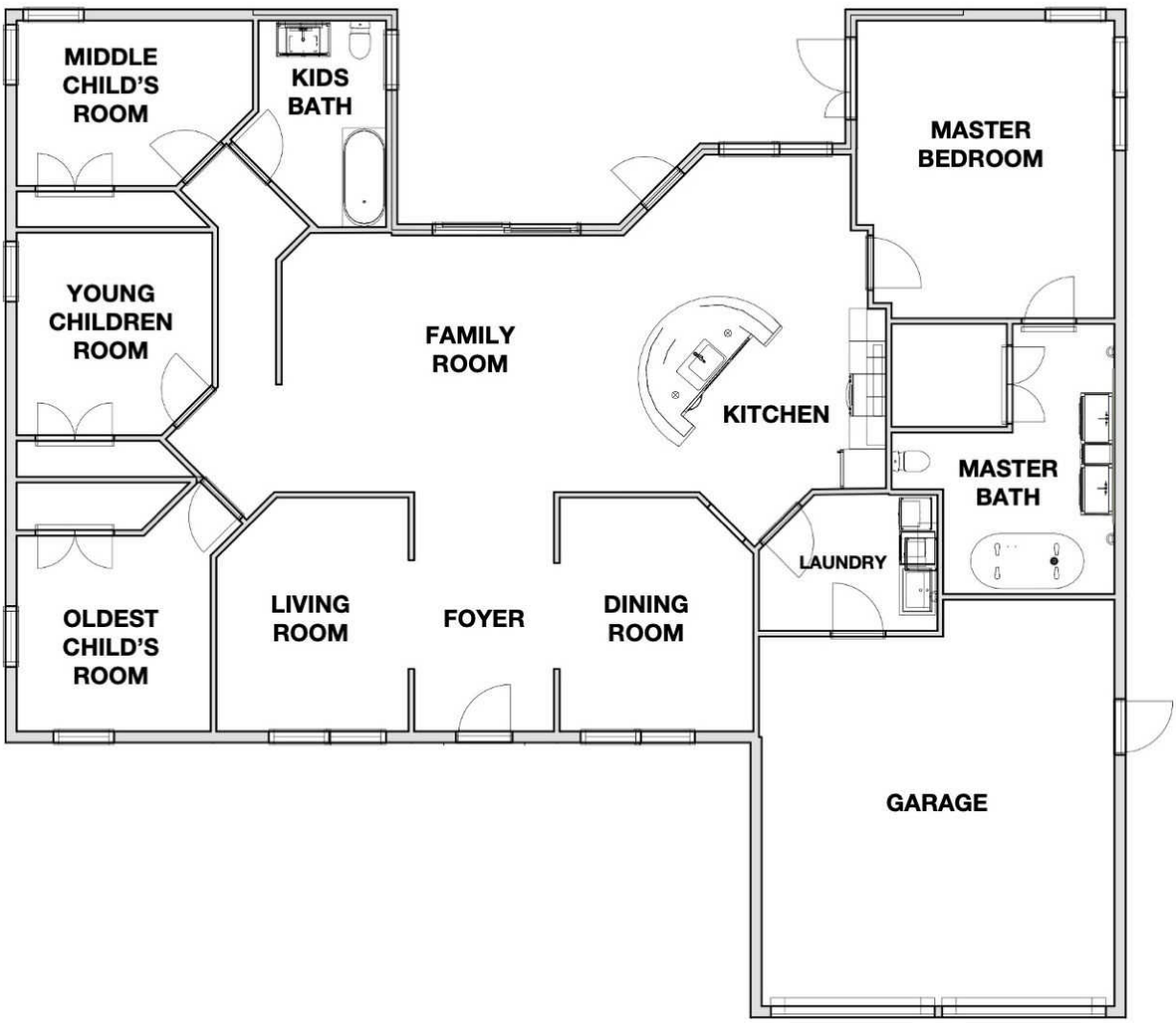
The diagrams on the following pages give a generalized example of what your anticipated threat courses of action could look like, along with a description of some of the thought processes that might drive their development. The threat courses of action use a generic, single-story home diagram and build off of the prioritized threat assessment example from earlier in this section. For ease of explanation, most examples in this book will use a single, hypothetical home and property layout.

Your own plans and diagrams do not need to look exactly like the following examples. Ideally, you will probably want to secure floorplans or blueprints of your house. At a minimum, you can make a rough sketch of your home's layout. In most cases the sketch does not need to be perfectly to scale, as long as you are able to clearly identify each room, doorway and window in the house as well as any other key information that might be relevant to your planning. If possible, you should make a lot of copies of this layout so you can write on them freely during the planning process without worrying about ruining your only copy.

THREAT COURSES OF ACTION: HOME FLOORPLAN

Obtaining or Drawing a Home Floorplan

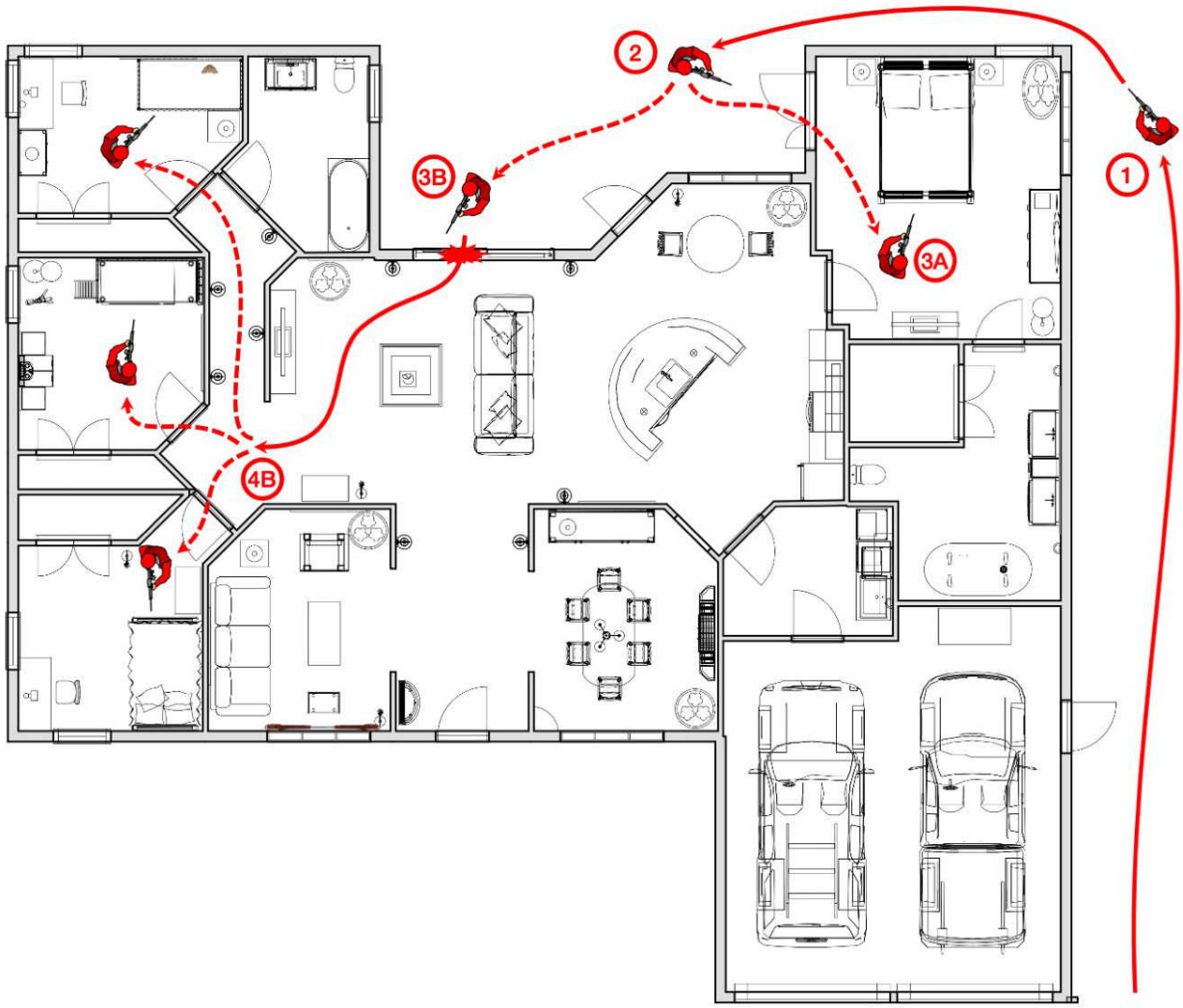
When brainstorming and anticipating threat courses of action and developing a home defense plan it can be helpful to have a copy of your home's floorplan. If you do not already have a floorplan they are sometimes available on real estate websites or you might be able to obtain one from your real estate agent/agency. The example below was developed using a commercially available interior design application. It is also fairly easy to draw a floorplan with pen and paper. Either way you will most likely want to modify your floorplan to draw in furniture and other objects. The example below contains no furniture.



THREAT COURSES OF ACTION: MOST LIKELY POSSIBILITIES

Course of Action Example with Branches

The example below shows what a possible threat course of action estimate might look like. The threat actions are drawn on to the floor plan in a bright color so it is easy to see and understand. The example below uses numbers to represent the sequence of threat actions and letters to represent branches (different possibilities) but you can use any method of labeling your diagram that works for you. In the example below, the threat decides to approach your house from the back and moves around the right side of the house (1). Once on the back porch (2) the threat has two options, he can break through the bedroom patio door and enter your bedroom (3A) or break through the main screen door (3B) and enter the family room. From here the threat moves towards your children's' rooms and has the option of entering any one of them (4B).



STEP 4 – Develop Plans to Counter Threat Courses of Action

Once you have identified likely threat courses of action, the next step is to develop your own defensive plans and measures to respond to the threat. The rest of this book deals with numerous ways of doing this and different aspects of the home defense effort. The important thing to emphasize at this point is that the three previous analytical steps explained so far are an important starting point for coming up with the best defensive plan.

In some cases you may go through the threat assessment process and feel like it was a waste of time because it didn't tell you anything that you couldn't have figured out just by applying logic or common sense. You might say, "I didn't need to go through such an extensive process just to figure out that the biggest threat is someone breaking in to my house." The threat assessment process will sometimes just confirm initial assumptions that were apparent on the surface. However, in other cases if you perform the assessments correctly, you might learn valuable information that will actually change the decisions you make about your security plan.

Consider the following scenario. You are worried about someone breaking in to your house and hurting you and your family so you decide to invest in a security system. However, when you study attack patterns in your area you discover that the majority of violent home invasions are conducted by a criminal gang that requires new members to commit a murder. You further discover that all the recent victims had security systems but the perpetrators broke in quickly using brute force, attacked the residents and then drove away before police could arrive.

In this case, you may still decide to get a security system but based on your analysis you might prioritize other efforts that will have a better chance of being effective against the gang's attack such as installing stronger doors, locks, or window security bars to buy more time for police to arrive on scene. You may also choose to focus on arming yourself and conducting firearms training so you are prepared to deal with multiple attackers. Purchasing a protection dog might also be a good option in this case. All of these decisions are based on the specific threat pattern you identified in your analysis.

Conversely, what if you discover that the most common threat is a burglary gone wrong where the home invaders have no intention of hurting anyone, they just want to rob the house. In this case you might decide that the best course of action is to discourage burglars from choosing to break in to your house in the first place. Purchasing a security system, a security dog and posting numerous signs around the property might act as an effective deterrent. Owning a firearm could also be useful but firearms training might be less of a priority in this case than it was in the case dealing with the criminal gang.

In each of these cases you used analysis of current threats to help you prioritize your actions and make decisions about your defensive plan to focus on the most likely and dangerous threat. In one case the priority was on personal protection and firearms training. In the second case the emphasis was on deterrence and security systems. One might ask why you wouldn't do both in either case, get a security system and also work on firearms training. In the ideal world, the more security you can have the better. However, we are all limited by time constraints and

resource constraints. Any planning process will require some prioritization at some point. Guiding that prioritization process is the purpose of the threat assessment.

In the end, even if you feel you did not learn much from the threat assessment process, going through the steps one-by-one is an extremely useful mental exercise. As already mentioned, you do not need to spend days or even hours on this process. Even sitting down just for a few minutes, doing some internet research on possible threats, taking some notes, and thinking about the most likely and most dangerous threat courses of action will get you in the right mindset for home defense and survival in an emergency situation. Countless combat case studies have shown that those who mentally prepare for combat scenarios are much more likely to survive and win in a life-and-death encounter. The more time and effort you can put into your preparation the better your chances will be.

DETERRENCE
The First Line of Defense

Deterrence means making your home appear to be a hard target so that intruders will not even attempt to break in. Taking many of the steps described throughout this book will help deter possible intruders. However, when it comes to deterrence it is not enough to take steps to improve your home security, you must also advertise the steps you have taken in a way that potential intruders can see. A security system may make your house more secure but it will not help to deter intruders if the intruders do not know that you have a security system. This is why most security systems come with signs and stickers that you can post around your house and property to act as a deterrence measure. However, using deterrence effectively is more complex than many people realize. The first step to understanding the effect that deterrence has on the criminal adversary is to better understand the criminal's mindset, logic, and perspective.

Criminal Planning and Risk Reward Ratio

When smart burglars are choosing which house to rob, they do not simply look for the house with the weakest security that offers the lowest level of risk. Even a very low risk is not worth taking if there is no reward or return on investment for the burglar. Many burglars function just like normal businessmen. Each break-in is a business venture. Business ventures that are higher-risk require a greater potential reward. This means that even if your house is a very hard target, burglars might still attempt to break in if there is something inside valuable enough to justify the risk.

In terms of deterrence, this risk/reward ratio means that placing many signs around your house advertising your new, expensive, security system may or may not deter an intruder. Some criminals may see the signs and decide to avoid your house due to the increased risk presented by the security system. Other criminals might see all these security measures as an indicator that your house has a lot of valuables worth stealing. Therefore, while advertising your security

system may deter some criminals, it may also end up drawing more criminal attention to your home.

Criminal Casing and Reconnaissance

Just like military units conduct reconnaissance and gather intelligence before an operation, smart criminals gather as much information about you and your home as possible before breaking in. As mentioned in the previous section, advertising your security system might draw more attention to your home, but this does not mean burglars will just break in immediately once they see the signs. Instead, they will probably investigate further to identify what in your house might be worth stealing.

Given this fact, part of employing effective deterrence is not flaunting your wealth or valuables for others to see. If you have to let strangers into your house for repair work etc. do not leave valuables out in plain sight if possible. Some criminals might find ways to gather information through repairmen, deliverymen, babysitters, and other people who have access to your house. In other cases valuables might be visible through windows from outside your home. If you wear expensive jewelry when you are out, a criminal who is following you will know that you most likely keep these valuables somewhere in your home.

In short, if you make it obvious that you have valuable things to steal, you will be encouraging criminals to attempt to rob you. It is also important to remember that having valuable items does not always coincide with being monetarily wealthy. You may think that criminals would not try to rob your house because you do not consider yourself wealthy. However, you might have a very expensive item in your house, a family heirloom passed down from a relative, a rare baseball card, or some other item that a criminal would be able to identify as a lucrative target. It is important to keep such items hidden as much as possible. The less attention you attract from criminals the more effective your deterrence will be.

Site Hardening and Deterrence

While advertising security measures can draw attention, that does not mean you should not attempt to deter criminals by posting various types of warning signs. If you own a dog or decide to purchase one for security reasons, it can be helpful to post signs warning visitors to "beware of dog." Letting your dog out into the yard frequently and allowing the dog to bark at visitors and bystanders will help make it clear to criminals that there is an alert, aggressive dog in your home. Many criminals claim that the presence of a dog is one of the most influential factors that can encourage them to leave a house alone.

You can also post signs that advertise other aspects of your security capabilities. Some signs specify that property is under recorded, video surveillance. Other signs might suggest or declare that the occupants of a house own firearms and are prepared to use them. You can post signs around your neighborhood advertising the fact that there is a neighborhood watch active

in the area. Less direct deterrence measures can be equally effective such as placing law enforcement or military bumper stickers on vehicles in your yard or displaying similar flags or logos around your house. A smart burglar will be looking for all of these indicators to identify the level of risk involved with a break-in.

In addition to advertising the strength of your security, you should avoid exposing your weaknesses. If you are a single woman living alone with your children, you might not want to advertise that fact. If you and your family frequently leave on vacation, you might attempt to disguise your travel pattern as much as possible and make it less obvious that you are gone. Some ways to do this include having house lights that turn on and off using remote control or automatic timers and covering all windows looking in to your garage so intruders cannot tell if there is a car parked inside.

Even if you are primarily concerned with preventing a break in when you are home, you should still try to deter criminals from breaking in when you are away. If you leave on vacation often and have valuables in your home, this might attract a lot of attention and convince burglars to attempt a break in. While burglars might attempt to break in when you are on vacation, they might well make a mistake and end up breaking in when you are home. Therefore, it is critical to present a hard target for criminals whether you are home or away.

Deception and Deterrence

While it is possible to deter criminals with fake security measures, it is always a serious gamble to do so. Instead of spending the time and money to install a security system or purchase and train a security dog, you could simply buy warning signs and place them around your property so that criminals will think you have these measures in place when you actually do not. You can also purchase dummy cameras and place them around your property to make your deception more convincing.

While such deceptive measures can work, we generally do not recommend making empty threats when it comes to home security deterrence. Instead of providing deterrence, the posted signs might draw unwanted attention from criminals looking for a high-payoff job. If the criminals are experienced, when they investigate your house further they will likely see through your deception. Discovering that there is no security system or dog present might be enough to convince them to move forward with the robbery.

ALERT, HARDENING AND RESPONSE
Establishing an Alert System

If deterrence fails and someone decides to try to break in to your home or trespass on your property, the next line of defense is to find a way to divert, stop or counter the attack using a combination of alert systems, site hardening and threat response. These three elements form the basis of most security systems. The following sections will explain each of these elements in more detail.

No security measure is a magical forcefield that actively protects you from threats. The best alarm system in the world doesn't provide any security if there is no one to respond to the alarm. The most heavily fortified door is most likely useless if the threat has an unlimited amount of time to find a way to break through it. Owning a powerful firearm and spending countless hours training with it will not do any good if an intruder finds you fast asleep in your bed and your weapon is in another room.

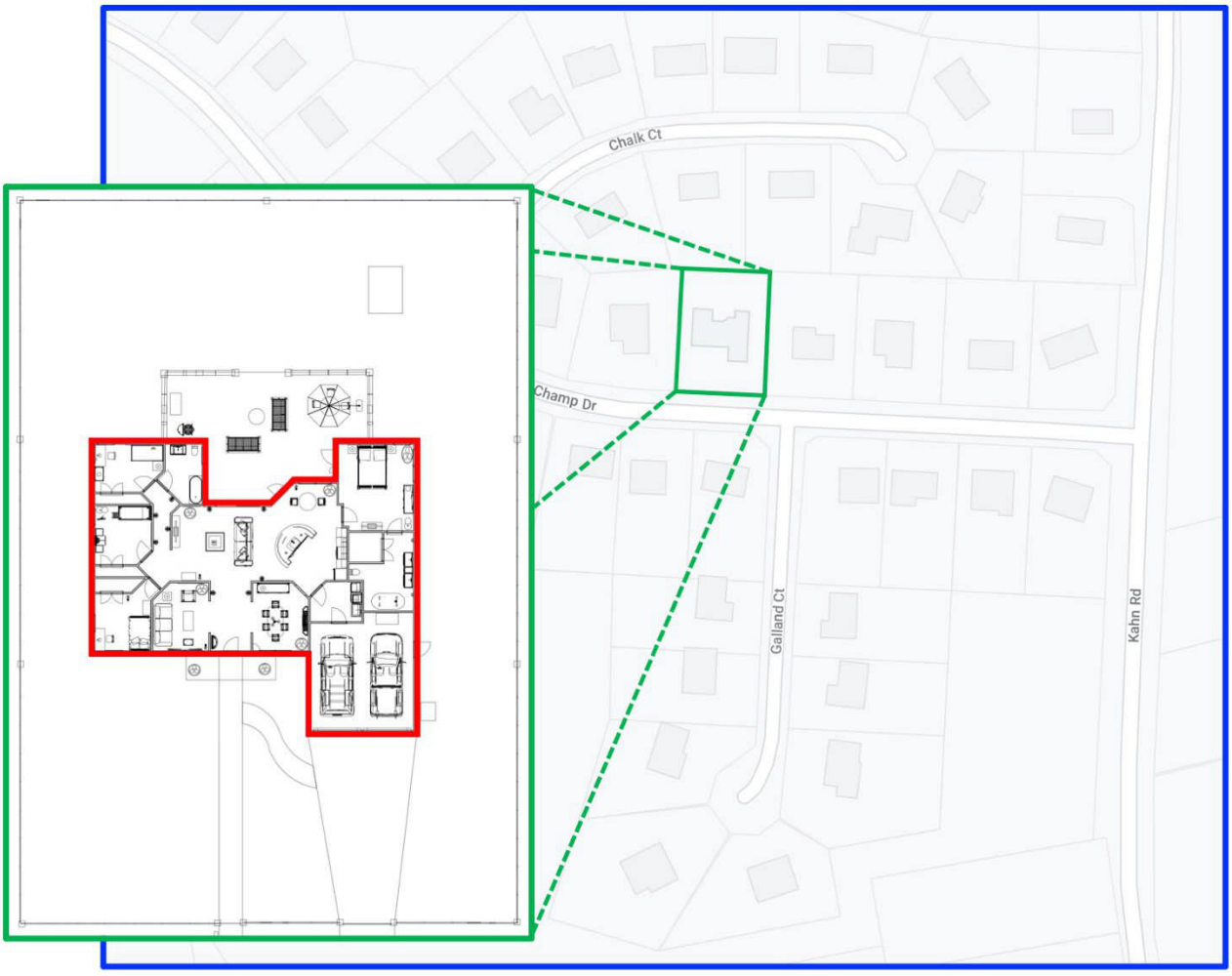
In order for security to be effective, all three elements (alert, hardening and response) need to come together simultaneously. First is the alert system. An alert system might be an alarm system, a neighborhood watch, a pet, a combination of all three or any number of other alert devices. The alert system will notify you when there is a threat or a potential threat. The alert system usually works in conjunction with physical obstacles and the measures you take to harden your home. Installing a door with a lock, means that you can connect an alarm that goes off when that door is opened. Placing a bolt on your door will force a threat to bang on your door or break a window in order to enter, which will wake up your guard dog who will then bark and alert you to the threat.

Thus, alerts systems and obstacles/hardening typically work in conjunction. The third element is the response. The response could be police arriving on scene or it could be you or other family members engaging the threat yourself with a personally owned weapon. In any case, it is important to integrate your alert system with your physical obstacles and threat response plan. This section will focus primarily on establishing an alert system but it will mention hardening and response plans at times as well for explanation purposes.

LAYERS OF ALERT SYSTEMS

Neighborhood, Property and Dwelling

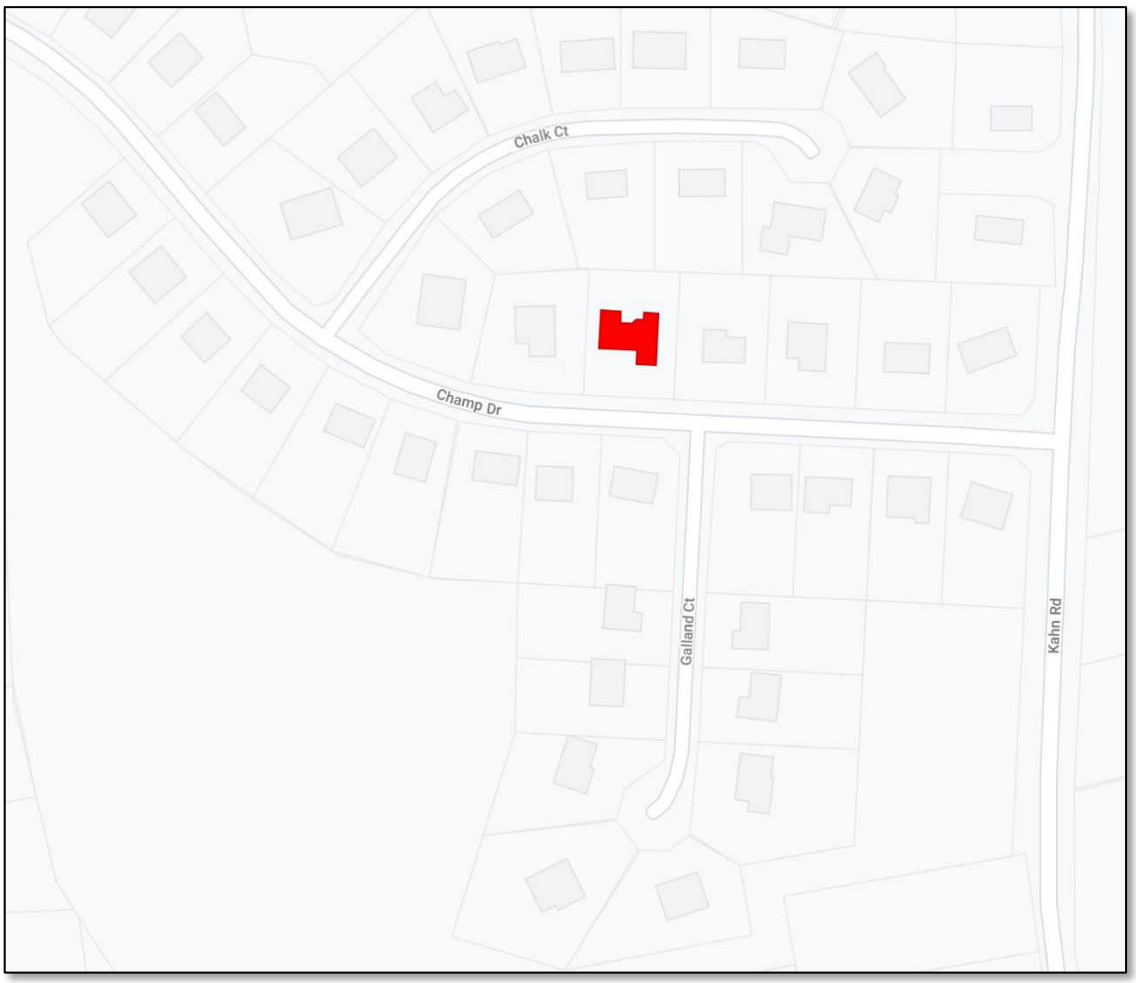
When establishing and emplacing alert systems, it can be helpful to think of them in terms of layers. The more layers of alert systems you have and the farther out they reach, the more early warning you will have of an incoming threat. Multiple layers of alert systems also decrease the chances that a threat will pass through undetected. The picture below shows a neighborhood (blue outline) and your personal property (green outline) within that neighborhood. The red outline shows the exterior wall of your family dwelling. You can incorporate different types of alert systems into each of these three zones. Also note that for consistency and ease of explanation, we will use the same neighborhood, property, and home layouts for most of the examples and scenarios in this book. While your neighborhood, property and home may differ from the example in various ways, in most cases the fundamental principles of security remain the same. We will discuss how to adapt practices based on different terrain and house types later.



NEIGHBORHOORD LEVEL ALERTS

Defining a Neighborhood for Security Purposes

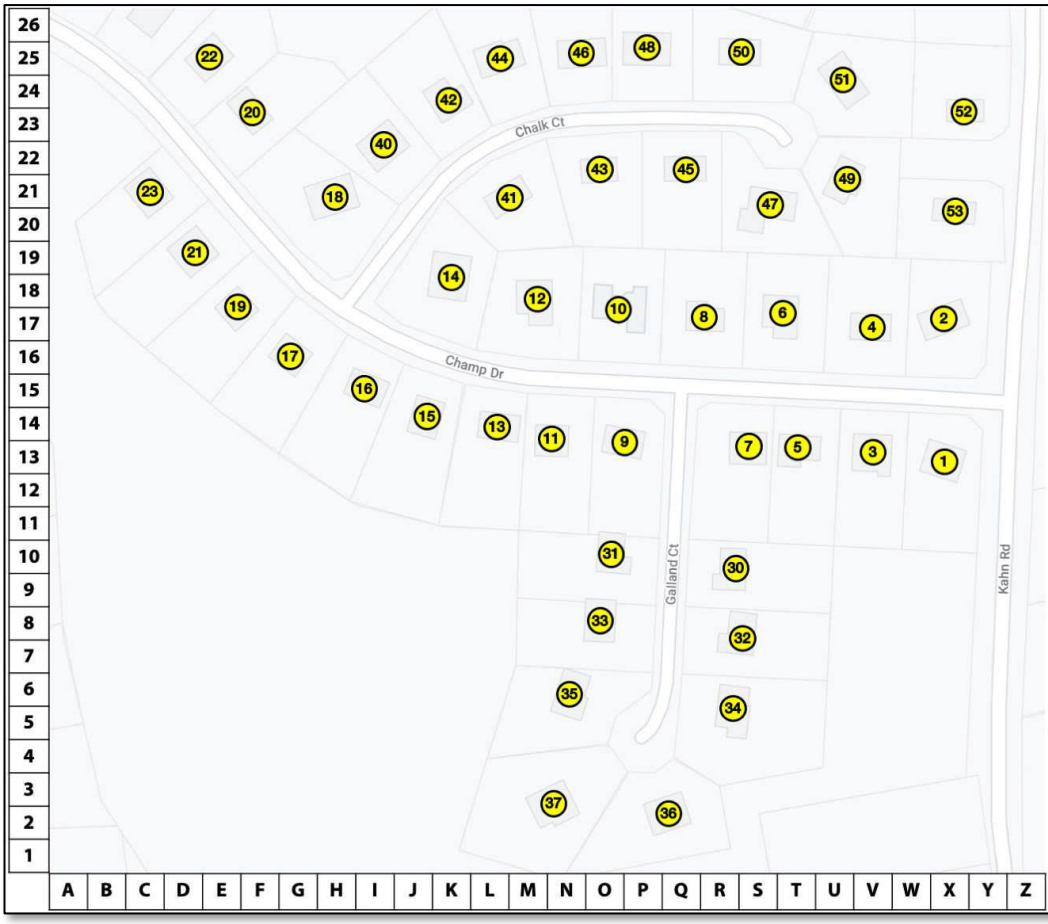
Security begins at the neighborhood level. In the example neighborhood below, your house is marked in red. The neighborhood is accessed from Kahn Road on the right side of the map. Champ Drive runs through the neighborhood and continues deeper in the community. Chalk Court and Galland Court branch off of Champ Drive and end in cul-de-sacs. You might notice that the map is cut off on the left side and that the neighborhood continues in that direction. When choosing a "neighborhood" for security purposes, you must use your judgment to decide on the right size. If the area is too big it will be difficult to manage. If you live in a large neighborhood like the one below, you might need to break it into smaller sections and establish security measures and alert systems for each section. There is no fixed way of doing this and there are many well-established organizations and procedures for establishing a neighborhood watch that might be useful. This example is only intended to illustrate basic concepts and encourage thinking.



NEIGHBORHOORD ALERT PLAN AND MECHANISMS

Contact Roster and Grid Reference Graphic (GRG)

Once you have defined a neighborhood of manageable size, the next step is to improve communication between residents. In some cases, people do not even know their next-door neighbor's phone number. This can cause serious problems for security. What if you are away from home and a child or older relative calls you for help? Wouldn't it be helpful to be able to reach out to a neighbor to assist right away? What If you detect a possible prowler but lose sight of the threat behind a neighbor's house? Wouldn't you want to warn the neighbor and ask them what they see? By establishing a "common operating picture" within your neighborhood you can greatly enhance your security and alert capabilities. One way to do this is by establishing a document like the one below and sharing it with your neighborhood. The document includes a phone roster of everyone in the neighborhood and depicts where each person's house is with a number. There is also an alphanumeric grid to help neighbors communicate possible threats. You might call a neighbor and ask them if they see a threat in the vicinity of grid H10. That is much easier than trying to describe a location, especially at night.

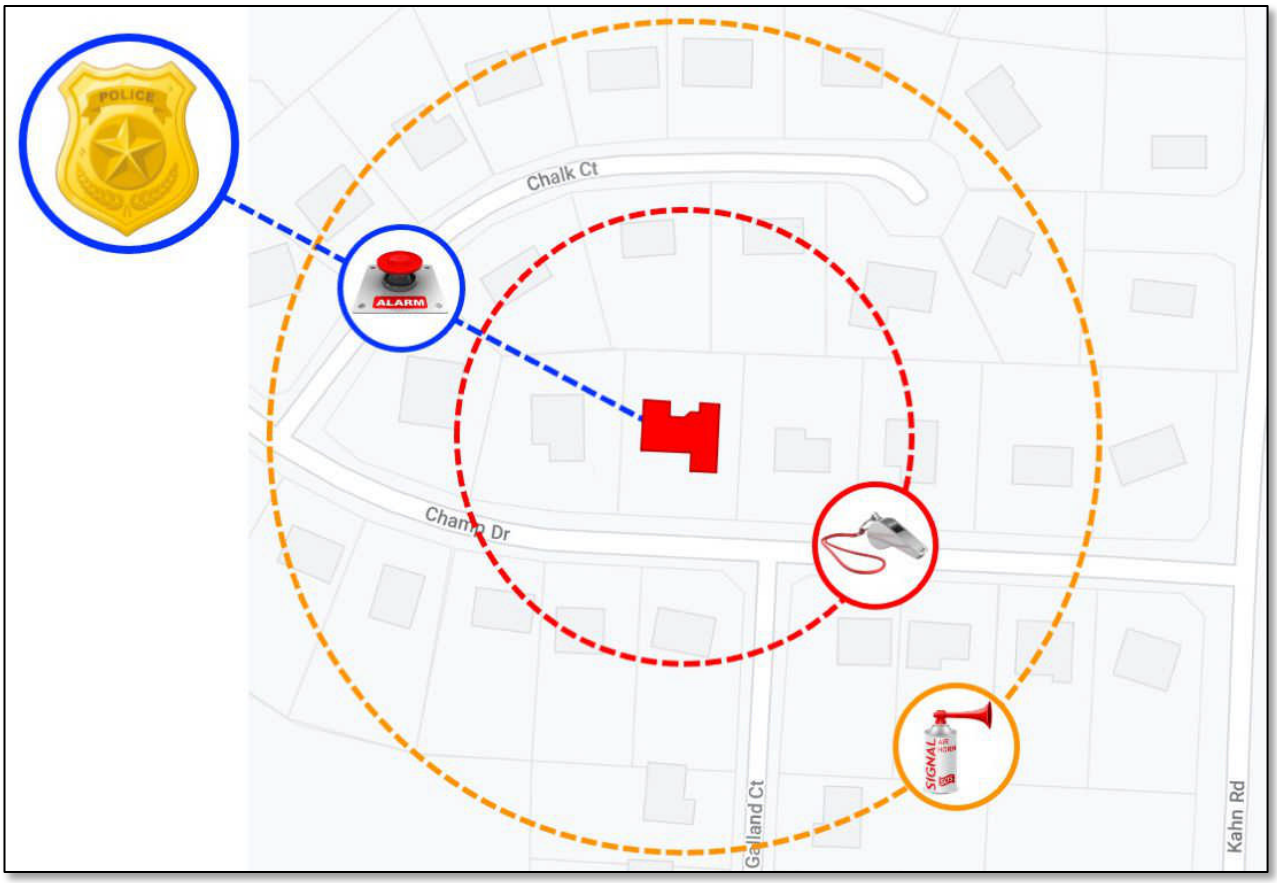


#	NAME	PHONE
1	John Stanley	910-265-7453
2	Bill Frost	910-265-6874
3	Ken Davis	910-495-2930
4	Fred Parker	910-223-0596
5	Sue Ford	910-959-1359
6	Jake Sims	910-258-9642
7	Polly Cruz	910-226-9485
8	Rex Billings	910-333-5885
9	Carl Stokes	910-623-4491
10	John Smith	910-299-6714
11	Phil Stevens	910-222-0937
12	Jack Porter	910-109-3426
13	Steve Parks	910-878-5552
14	Randy White	910-202-2231
15	Stacy Wu	910-041-2343
16	Stanley Crow	910-114-7253
17	Frank Fox	910-334-5453
18	Pete Acer	910-789-2002
19	Molly Strake	910-843-2369
20	Bella Rodin	910-763-1468
21	Andy Brody	910-442-8878
22	Charlie Zax	910-243-0095
23	Damon Lowe	910-777-0034
24	Liz Winkler	910-909-9897
25	Gabe Ringo	910-345-9786
26	Holly Morris	910-211-1254
27	Hank Patton	910-747-3332
28	Joe Bradley	910-238-9743
29	Monty Slim	910-954-8787
30	Hans Kringle	910-112-9878
31	Betty Drake	910-328-8291
32	Bob Jeffries	910-999-2324
33	Ben Gomez	910-813-2479
34	Zak Evers	910-945-2754
35	Chris Pots	910-324-5556
36	Will Wyman	910-505-5023
37	Farley Tonkin	910-676-5647
38	Ray Baer	910-427-7194
39	Flo Chester	910-987-2657
40	Ax Manning	910-113-5732
41	Jamie Wong	910-634-6756
42	Mick Flores	910-808-5433
43	Kay Weber	910-111-8856
44	Steve Locke	910-363-5756
45	Ralph Quinn	910-901-3334
46	Lana Fresno	910-223-5483
47	Karl Roman	910-089-1943
48	Ferris Brant	910-656-2241
49	Cory Fink	910-878-6754
50	Lacy Ramos	910-585-4839
51	Tracy Singh	910-564-1928
52	George Pots	910-342-7684
53	Colin Rain	910-228-8798

ALERT PLANS AND PROCEDURES

Developing Multiple Redundant Alerts

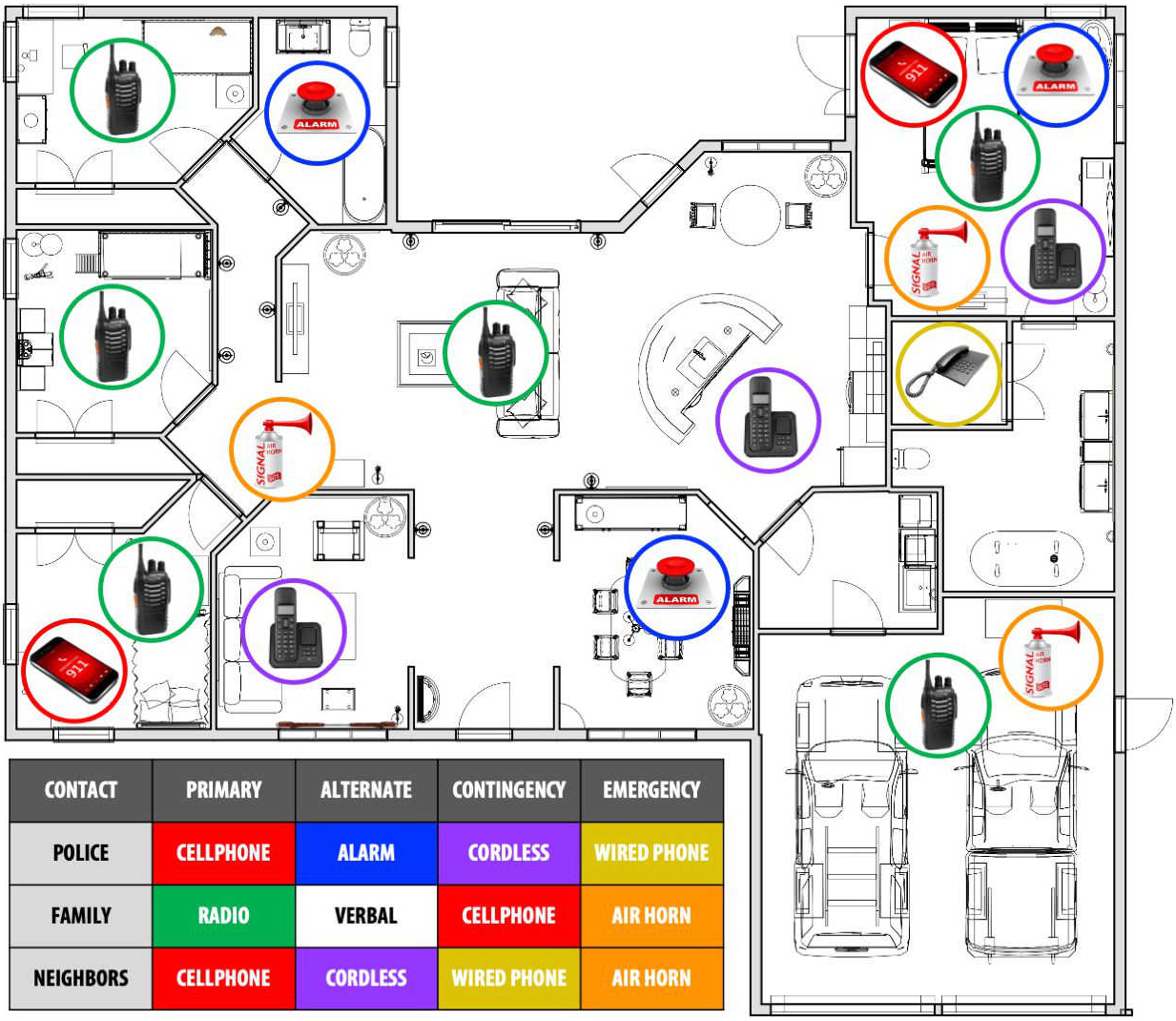
After improving communications in your neighborhood and creating some shared documents like call rosters or GRGs, it is important to actually talk with your neighbors, get to know them, and agree upon some prearranged emergency signals. You may divide up the phone roster and assign each neighbor to call three others in an emergency that affects the entire neighborhood. You might plan to contact specific neighbors with law enforcement or medical experience depending on the situation. What if there is an emergency and your phone does not work? It would be helpful to have a whistle or airhorn to alert neighbors of the emergency. Having established a prearranged signal (three blasts for emergency etc.) the neighbors can then call the police even if you cannot. When establishing alerts, it is important to test them. As shown in the diagram below the sound of a whistle or air horn might only travel so far. It is also important to have electronic alarms (marked in blue) that are quick to trigger and directly alert local law enforcement. These are just a few examples of how to set up an alert plan within your neighborhood. There is no single best way to do this, the important thing is to think through it, discuss it with your neighbors and test it to make sure it works.



COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Multiple Redundant Communications Within the Home

You should also ensure you have multiple, redundant communications within your own home. Ideally you should have four levels: primary, alternate, contingency and emergency. Study the diagram below for an example. It can be helpful to have cordless land-line phones and even wired phones in case cell reception goes down. Giving each family member a radio (walkie-talkie) can allow you to communicate with your family while calling the police on another line. If you have an alarm system, you should be able to manually trigger the alarm from several points throughout the house. You should have backup alert and communications devices placed in strategic locations so you can get to them in an emergency. Everyone in the family must know where these devices are and you must test them and practice using them regularly.



CONTACT	PRIMARY	ALTERNATE	CONTINGENCY	EMERGENCY
POLICE	CELLPHONE	ALARM	CORDLESS	WIRED PHONE
FAMILY	RADIO	VERBAL	CELLPHONE	AIR HORN
NEIGHBORS	CELLPHONE	CORDLESS	WIRED PHONE	AIR HORN

SECURITY SYSTEMS: TYPES OF WIRING AND MONITORING

Understanding Your System's Capabilities

There are a growing number of security systems on the market all with unique strengths and weaknesses. One of the first questions to ask about a security system is what type of wiring it uses for both power and communications. You want to ensure your system has a backup battery power source so that cutting power to your house will not shut off the system. However, if your system uses battery power only you will have to ensure all the systems' components remain fully charged and do not run out of batteries. There are also security systems with either wired or wireless communication capabilities, or a combination of both. When selecting the type of communication your security system employs, you should speak with local law enforcement and research criminal trends in your area. Both wired and wireless systems can be jammed or spoofed in different ways. If your wireless system depends on a local Wi-Fi internet connection, all an intruder has to do is disable your internet and your system's communication will go down. Monitoring is also a critical question. If you are using a "Do-It-Yourself" (DIY) security system that requires you or someone else in your family to monitor sensors or security feeds, know that it is impossible for you to monitor the system at all times. Even if you set a mobile device to alert you to possible threats, your phone might run out of batteries or you might leave it in another room. A security system monitored by a third-party security company might be more reliable for 24-hour coverage. This is a very generalized summary of the different types of security systems, intended to start you thinking about the pros and cons of each system. Ideally you want a system with as many redundant or backup capabilities as possible but these systems are often more expensive and take longer to install. Make sure to take all of these factors into account when choosing a security system.

SECURITY SYSTEMS: TYPES OF SENSORS

Security Cameras

Security cameras are one of the most common types of home security sensors and they come in many different types. Two common types of cameras are fixed angle cameras and remote control (pan, tilt, zoom) cameras. While it might seem that remote control cameras would always be a better option, there are advantages and disadvantages to both types of cameras. Remote control cameras allow viewers to adjust the angle as needed to investigate a situation. The ability to pan, tilt and zoom the camera also allows one camera to cover a wider area, meaning you can achieve cull coverage with fewer cameras. However, remote control cameras can only view one angle at one time. This means that as the user pans, tilts or zooms the camera to focus on one area another area will be neglected. Fixed cameras can be carefully set up to cover all angles at all times ensuring there are no momentary gaps in coverage. Ideally, a combination of fixed angle and remote-control cameras is the best option, but this might not be possible due to cost and resources. Cameras provide security in three main ways. First, they can deter intruders who do not want to be seen on camera (dummy cameras can work in this way as well). Second, they can allow someone who is monitoring the camera to identify threats. Most modern cameras have an alert capability to let you know when they see something, so you do not need someone to be watching the feed all the time. Finally, some cameras have recording capability. While this might not prevent or stop a threat, it might allow you identify and prosecute intruders later on. This recording capability can provide an additional deterrent and/or force intruders to wear masks which makes them more conspicuous to neighbors and bystanders.

SECURITY SYSTEMS: TYPES OF SENSORS

Motion Sensors

Like security cameras, motion sensors come in a variety of types. Some are linked directly to your security system and when tripped will set off an alarm and notify your security company or local law enforcement. Some motion sensors will not alert authorities but will just set off a chime inside your house. Some sensors like this come in packs of multiple sensors and you can assign different chimes to each sensor. These sensors can be useful to cover main entrances to your property, letting you know which entrance has detected motion based on the unique chime. Chime sensors can also be useful if you have a long driveway and want to know if a vehicle turns down your driveway towards your house. Other motion sensors simply trigger a floodlight to come on. These flood lights are typically used outdoors and can be helpful in several ways. First, they can act as a deterrent since intruders will not want to trigger the floodlight or might be surprised if it comes on unexpectedly. Second, when the floodlight comes on it will alert you and your neighbors that something is moving outside and you can then move to a position to investigate further. Third, the floodlight itself will help you better see the surrounding terrain at night when you are looking out from inside your house. Regardless of the type of motion sensor you use, it is important to think through how and where you emplace them and how they integrate with the rest of your sensors and your overall security plan. We will discuss this integration process more later on.

MOTION SENSOR LINKED TO SECURITY SYSTEM

MOTION SENSOR LINKED TO FLOOD LIGHT

SECURITY SYSTEMS: TYPES OF SENSORS

Entry Sensors

Entry sensors detect when someone has opened a door or window. Most entry sensors have two parts, one that you place on the doorframe and one that you place on the door itself. When the door opens these two parts are separated which either trips the alarm or sets off a chime. Window sensors work in the same way. Some sensors can also detect the vibration caused by a breaking window.

ENTRY SENSOR

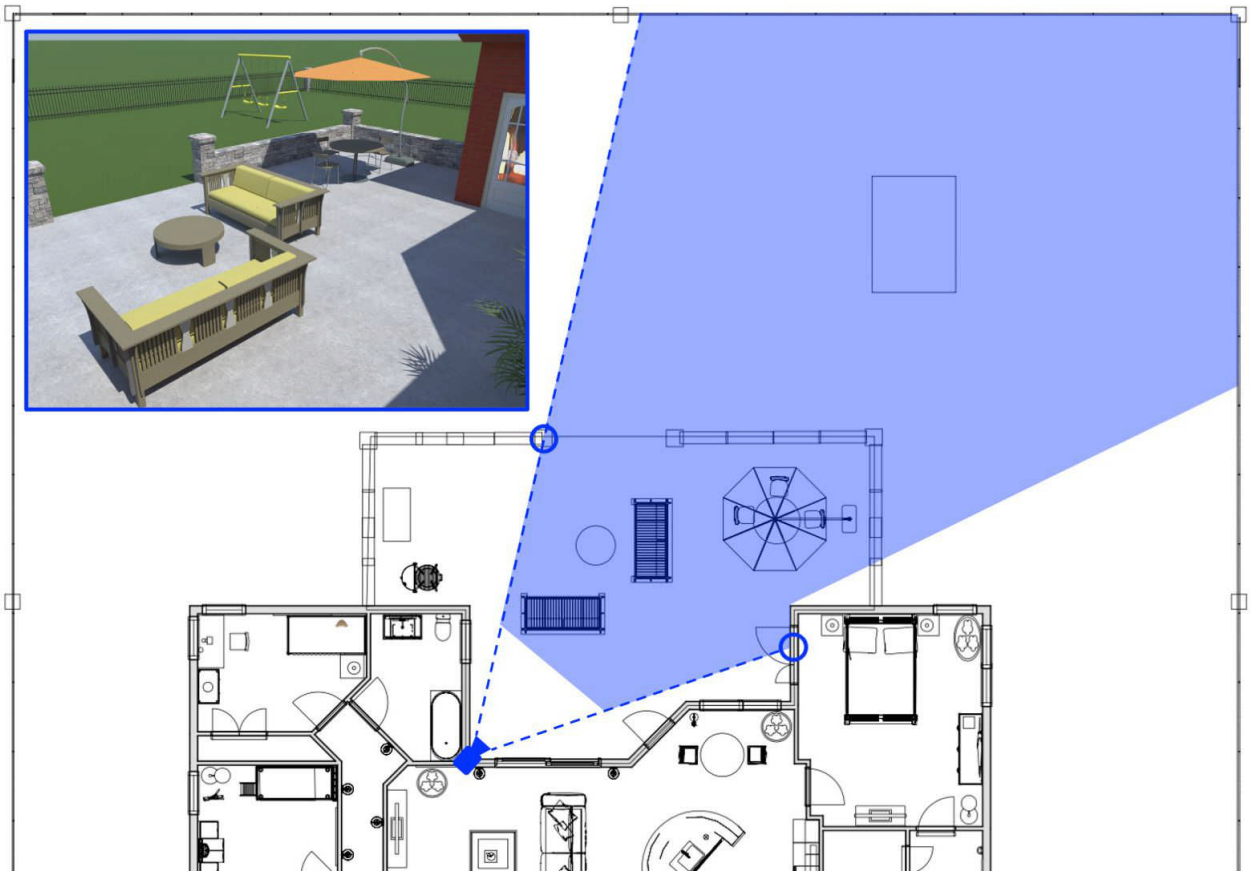
DOOR APPLICATION

WINDOW APPLICATION

SECURITY SYSTEMS: PLACEMENT OF SENSORS

Security Camera Sight Lines

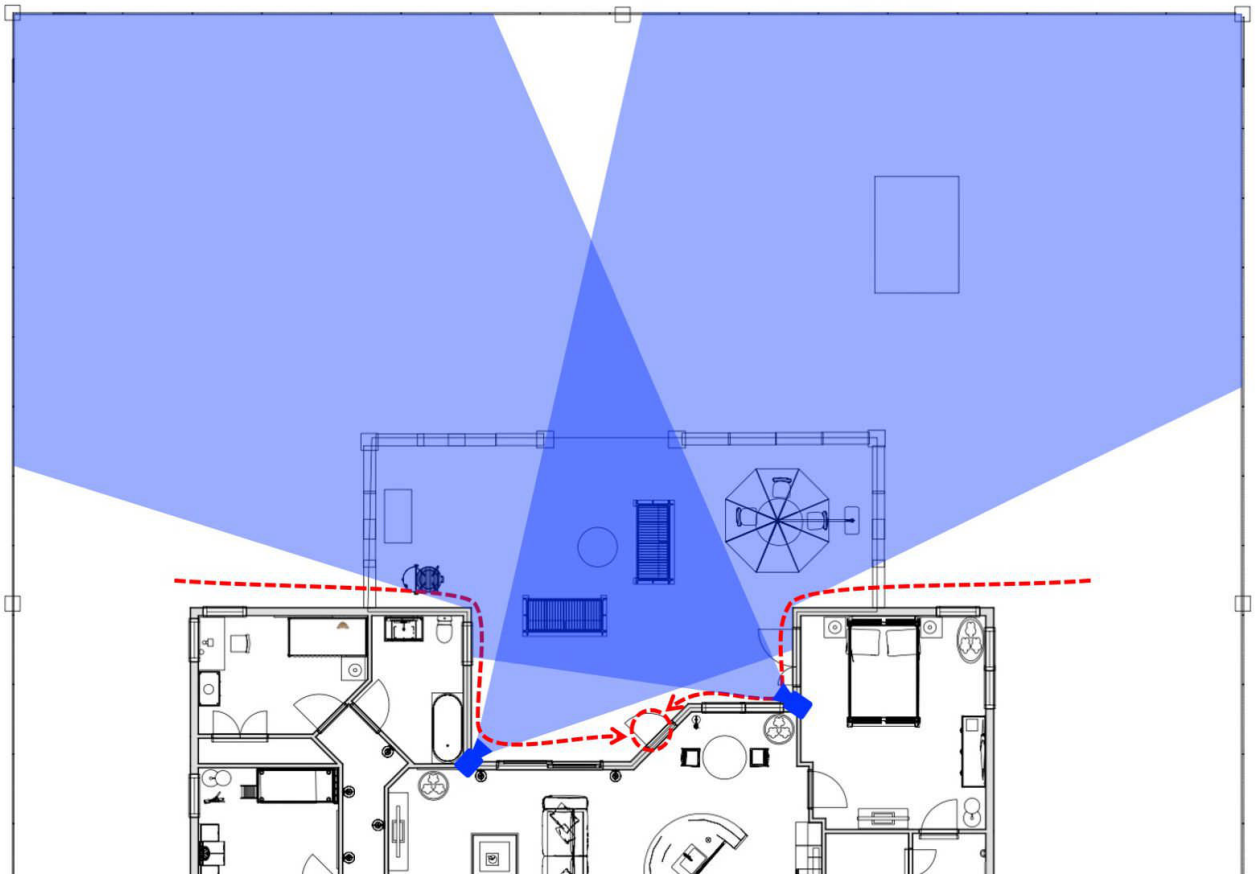
When discussing how to emplace security cameras, a first critical step is to understand how to precisely identify the sight lines covered by each camera. Your property blueprint/map will be useful for this process. First, mark the location of the camera on the blueprint. Then, look at the video feed coming from the camera. Precisely identify objects at the right and left limits of the video feed and mark/circle them on your map. Then draw straight lines running from the camera through each of these circled objects. Finally, depending on the camera's vertical angle there might be dead zones below or above the video image. Identify objects that line up with the upper and lower limits of the video feed and mark them with lines on your map. The blue shaded area below correspond to the area visible to the camera in the picture on the upper left. Drawing out sight lines like this on a map will help you visualize the actual coverage of your cameras and identify dead zones more easily. Another critical point to remember is that you should not place a camera where it can be easily stolen or destroyed by an intruder. Using a ladder to place cameras higher off the ground a good option to avoid this problem.



SECURITY SYSTEMS: PLACEMENT OF SENSORS

Security Camera Blind Spots

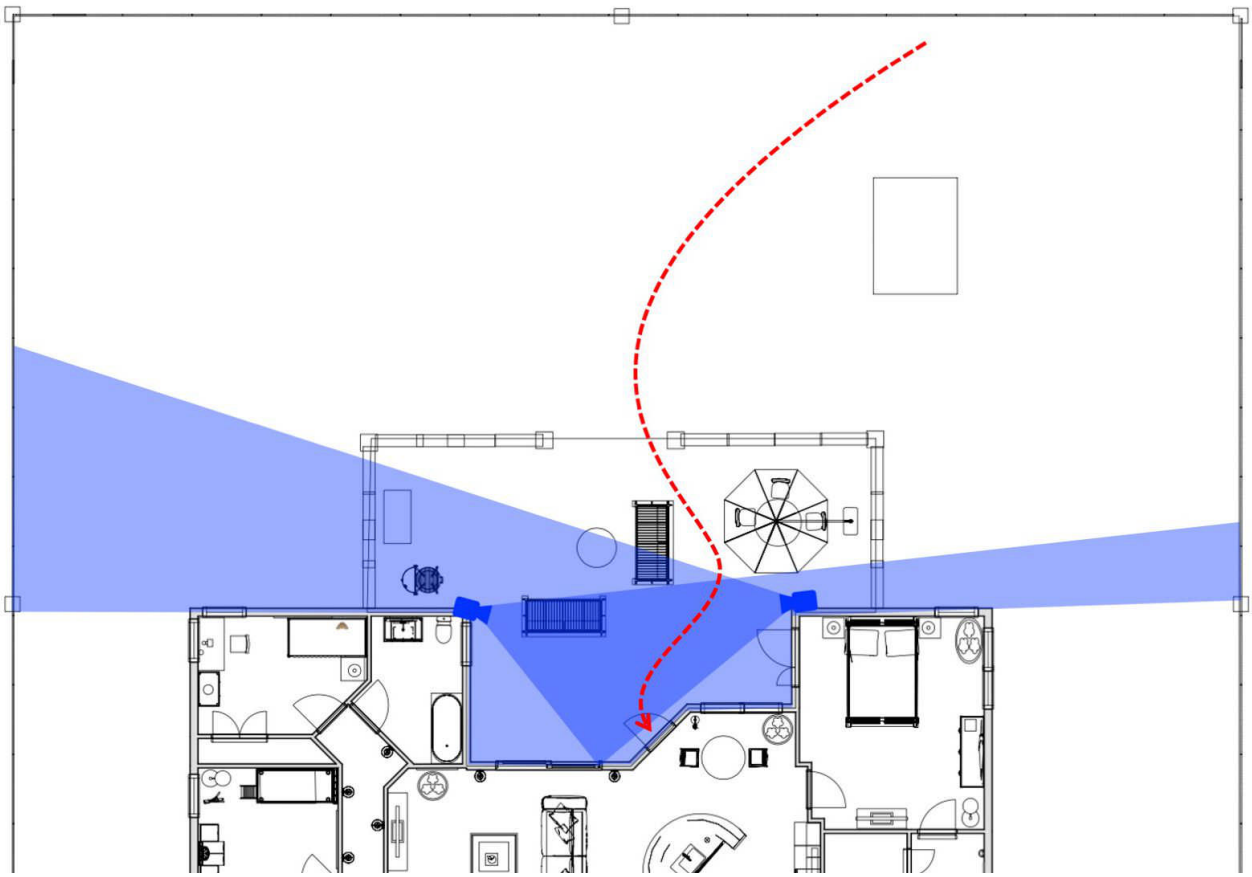
Carefully marking camera sight lines on your property map can help you identify potential problems that you might not otherwise have noticed. For example, the two cameras below offer good coverage of most of your yard but leave blind spots that an intruder could exploit when trying to break in to your house. Most importantly, the cameras fail to cover a key entry door. This means that if an intruder moving along the path marked by either one of the red dotted lines got to the rear entry door, he/she would have time to force open or break through the door out of sight of the cameras. Observing the paths marked in red, by moving primarily in blind spots the intruder would pass through the sightline of the camera only momentarily. Depending on the type of camera and monitoring system, this momentary exposure might be overlooked. Therefore, the configuration below might not be a good option because of blind spots in the camera coverage.



SECURITY SYSTEMS: PLACEMENT OF SENSORS

Security Camera Positioning Tradeoffs

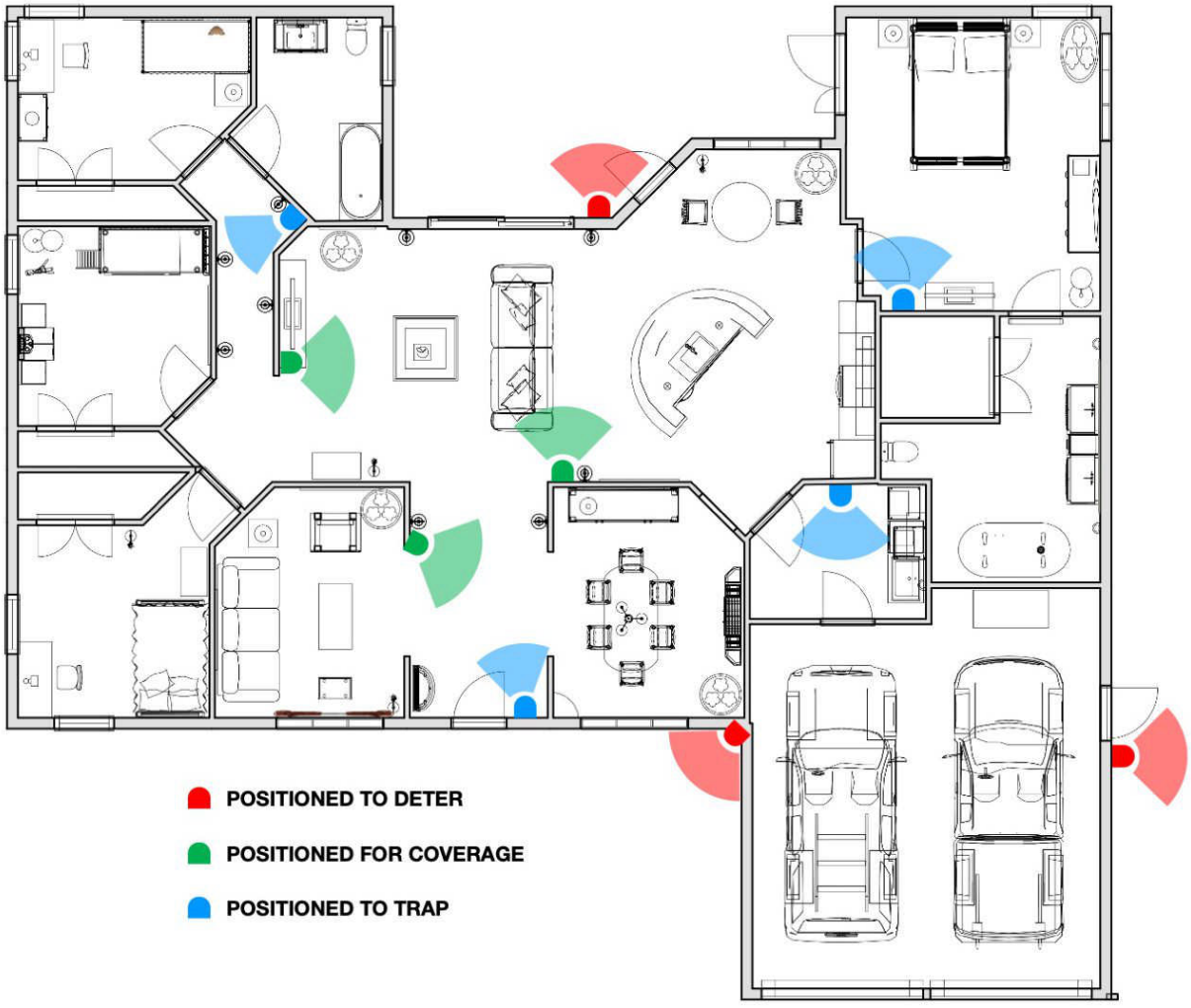
Compared with the configuration on the previous page, the set up below covers all entry doors on the rear patio and leaves no blind spots along the exterior wall where an intruder could approach. The set up below also offers the advantage that both cameras can see each other. This means that if an intruder tries to climb up and remove, disable, or tamper with one of the cameras he/she will be exposed to the other camera. However, you will notice that the overall coverage area of the two cameras below is not as wide as the example on the previous page and leaves out much of the yard. This means that the cameras will not spot an intruder moving along the red dotted path as soon as the cameras on the previous page. Unless you have unlimited resources and monitoring bandwidth to employ as many cameras as you need, you may well need to make tradeoffs when positioning cameras. As we will discuss, if there are certain areas you cannot cover with cameras, you can potentially cover them with other sensors or block them with obstacles.



SECURITY SYSTEMS: PLACEMENT OF SENSORS

Motion Sensor Placement

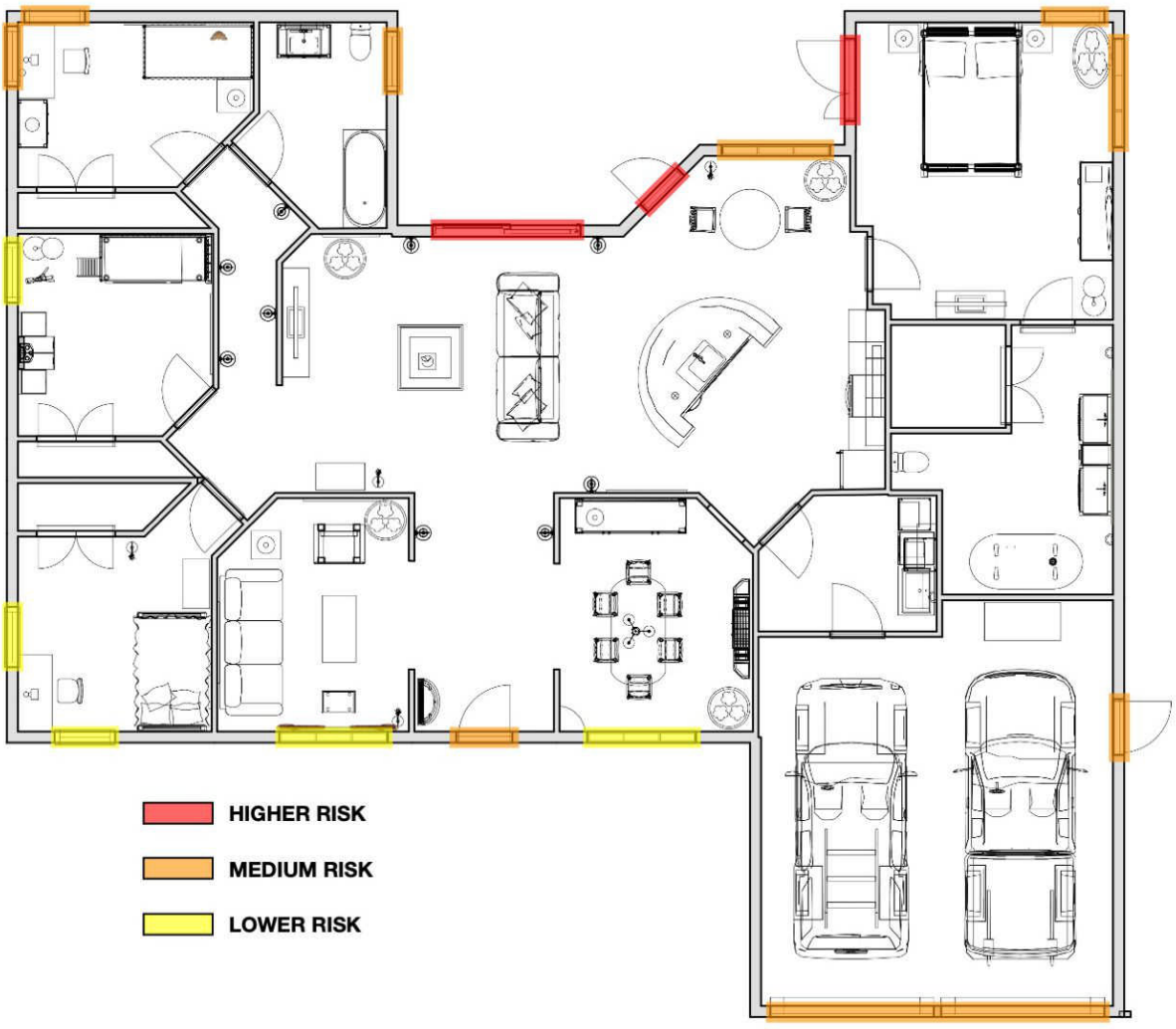
When placing motion sensors, consider the type of sensor (as discussed earlier) and how the sensor reacts when tripped. If the sensor sets off an alarm and calls the police, you probably do not want to position it outside where it might be activated by a raccoon. A floodlight motion sensor might be a better fit for outdoor placement. It is also important to think through what you intend a specific sensor to accomplish. If you place sensors where they are visible and easy to see they might help deter intruders. This is particularly the case with floodlight sensors. When placing sensors inside, you may position them for maximum coverage or to cover specific, high-traffic areas. Alternatively, you might emplace them at chokepoints or on the other side of closed doors. While these sensors might have limited coverage, they can "trap" intruders since by the time the intruder sees the sensor it will already be too late and the alarm will be tripped.



SECURITY SYSTEMS: PLACEMENT OF SENSORS

Entry Sensor Placement

Ideally, you will be able to place entry sensors on every opening or entry point to your house. However, if you are unable to cover every entry point you should focus on covering the entry points that present a higher risk of breach. Even if you have enough sensors to cover all entry points, it can be useful to go through and mark all entry points on your house map and rank them as either higher risk (red), medium risk (orange) or lower risk (yellow). When evaluating risk level, there are no fixed formulas and no way to be certain which entry points an intruder will actually choose. Instead, just do your best to use judgement and common sense. Entry points that are less visible to neighbors and bystanders are often a more likely choice for intruders. Also, as you emplace cameras and motion sensors to cover higher risk entry points you might downgrade their risk to medium or low as needed in your planning process.



SECURITY DOGS FOR EARLY WARNING

Tools for Defining Dog Patrol Zones

Security dogs are some of the best team members you can have in your home security effort. As already discussed, dogs provide a great deterrent to potential intruders. Dogs can also be great early warning sensors by barking at possible intruders. When employing a security dog, one important consideration is the area where the dog is free to roam. Essentially, you should establish a patrol or coverage zone for the dog. The tools and items below can help you either expand or restrict the dog's patrol zone. A dog house and/or dog door allow you to expand your dog's patrol zone both outdoors and indoors. Larger patrol zones allow your dog to cover more area but mean that the dog might be far away from key entry points when an intruder shows up. If the dog is sleeping it might not detect a distant intruder. By using gates and barriers to limit your dog to a smaller patrol zone you can focus on stopping intruders in the highest risk areas. Employing lower barriers can help define the dog's patrol zone but still allow the dog to jump over the barrier in an emergency. If you are using indoor motion sensors, you may need to use gates or barriers to keep the dog from entering these areas and tripping the sensors. The diagram on the next page offers some examples of possible dog patrol zones.

DOG GATE

DOG DOOR

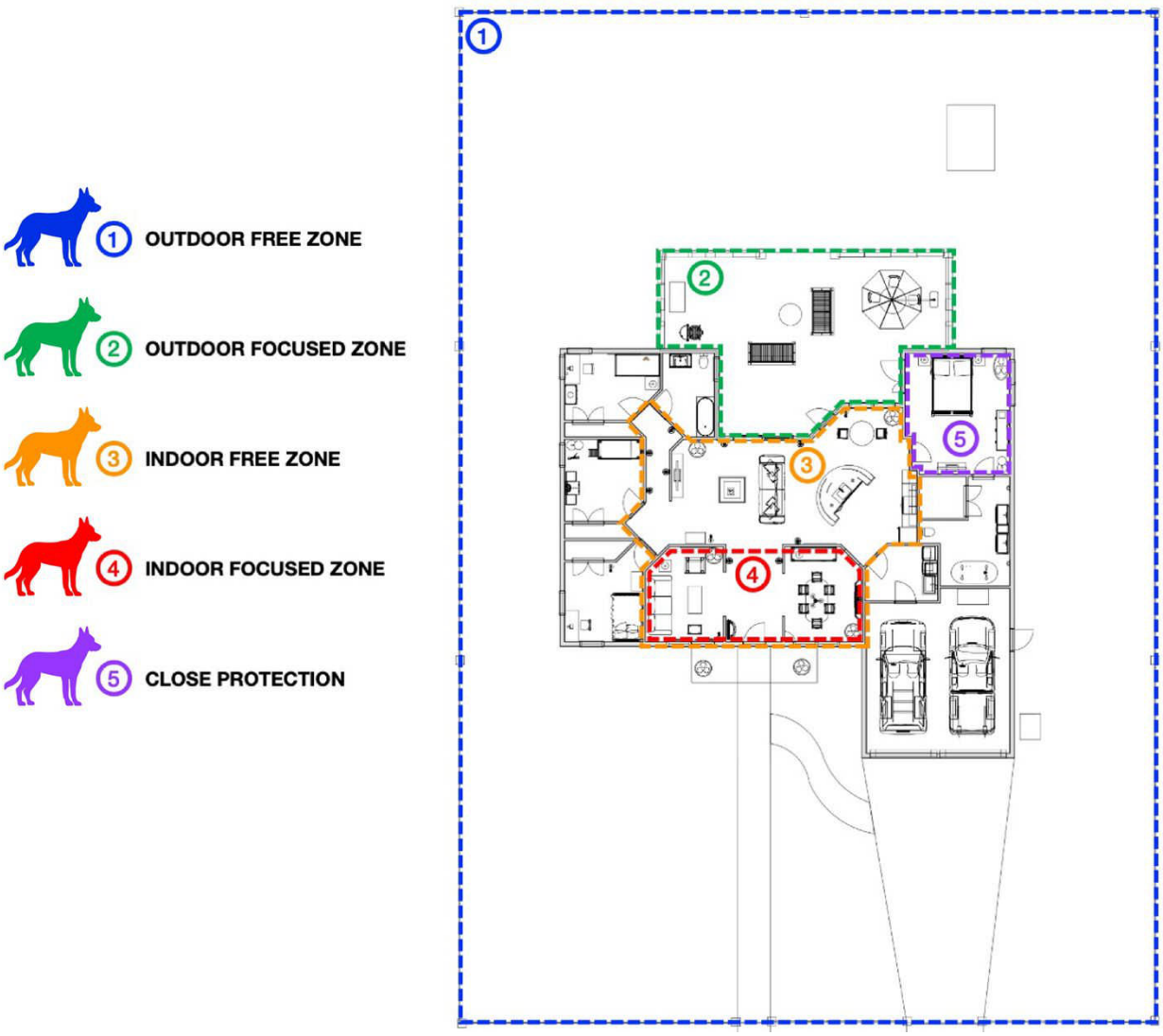
DOG HOUSE

DOG BARRIER

SECURITY DOGS FOR EARLY WARNING

Examples of Dog Patrol Zones

Each patrol zone example below has advantages and disadvantages. Option 1 (blue) gives the dog free reign on all of the property, employing a dog house and dog door. This offers wider coverage and the possibility for earlier detection but is better for dogs who are more active and alert. Option 2 (green) restricts the dog to cover key entry points in the rear of the house. Option 3 (orange) gives the dog free reign inside of the house while option 4 (red) focuses on covering the front door and windows. Option 5 keeps the dog in a single room (either your room or a child's room) which provides close physical comfort and protection but less coverage area. You can use any combination of these or other patrol zones based on your individual needs. Also, if you have multiple dogs they can cover multiple zones simultaneously.



ALERT, HARDENING AND RESPONSE
Obstacles and Site Hardening

Obstacles and alert systems are closely linked by necessity. In some cases, you cannot employ certain types of alert systems or alarms without obstacles. For example, you cannot emplace an entry sensor without a door or window to place it on. Obstacles force intruders to trip sensors, slow them down so it is more likely they will be caught on camera, and redirect them into the path of motion sensors and other alarms. While sensors and obstacles are somewhat effective in isolation, they are much more effective when employed together as part of a deliberate plan.

As we will discuss in more detail in the following section, it is rare that an obstacle is designed to completely block access or make it impossible for an intruder to enter your home. Given enough time and the proper tools, a skilled individual can break through almost any lock, door, or barrier. Even locks that are advertised as "unpickable" may be defeated by knocking off the doorknob with a sledgehammer, ripping the hinges out of the door itself or sawing through the comparatively weak construction material on either side of the door.

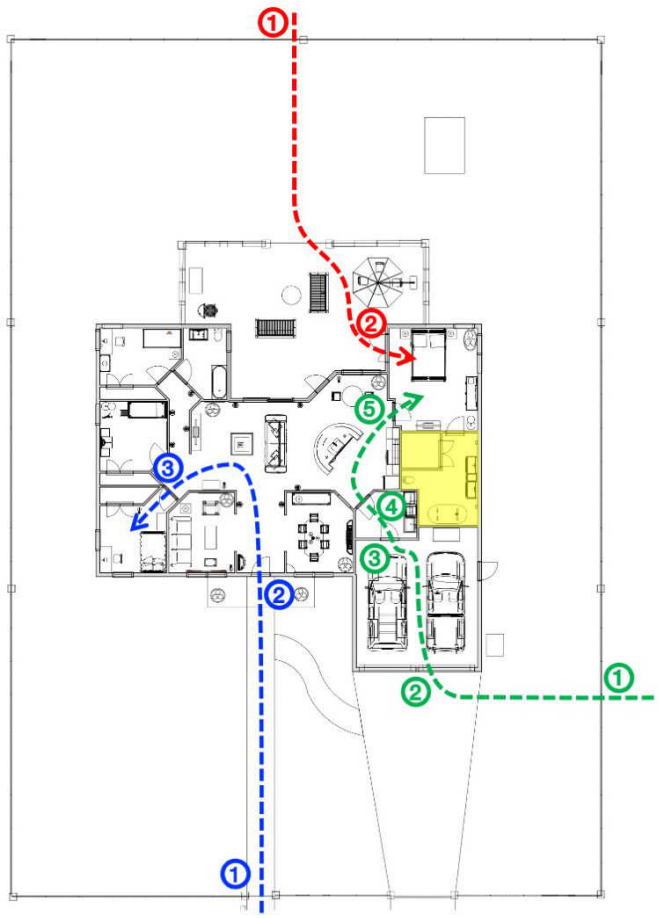
Unless you live in an armored fortress, it is only a matter of time before a skilled intruder can find a way to break in. Understanding this fact helps you better understand how to use obstacles in your overall security plan. The main purpose of obstacles is to buy you time. Weaker obstacles are easy for an intruder to bypass and buy less time, stronger obstacles take longer to defeat and will buy you more time. The next question to ask yourself is what are you buying time for? Depending on your plan there are a number of possible answers to this question. You might be buying time for police to arrive, for you and your family to escape out a rear exit, or for you to secure a personal weapon and move to a defensive position.

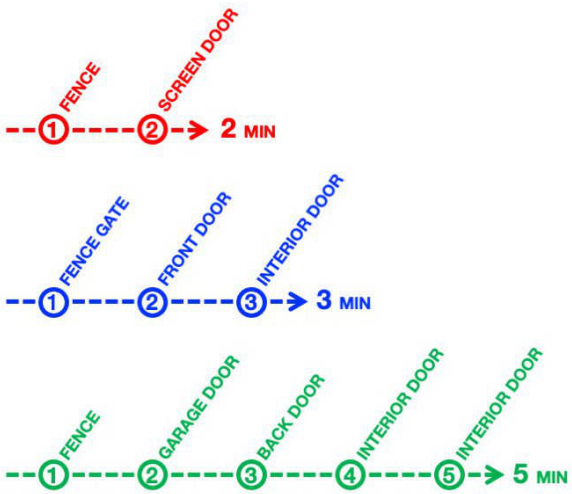
As with sensors and alert systems, you should emplace your defensive obstacles in a way that makes sense given your threat assessment and anticipated threat courses of action. If you anticipate that it is most likely that a threat will approach from the rear of your house, you should ensure that your rear doors and windows are well protected and difficult to breach. It is also important to realize that emplacing sensors and obstacles might change the threat's most likely course of action. If a threat sees many sensors and obstacles covering the rear of your house, he may decide to enter from a different direction.

LAYERS OF OBSTACLES

Obstacles and Time Calculations

As already mentioned, an intruder will generally find a way to break through an obstacle eventually. The main purpose of obstacles is to buy time for you, law enforcement and/or neighbors to respond. Given these considerations, it is helpful to layer your obstacles. This means putting as many obstacles between you and the intruder as possible. Each time an intruder has to break through or bypass an obstacle, that adds additional seconds or minutes to the total time it takes an intruder to break in. It is difficult to predict exactly how long it will take an intruder to bypass a given obstacle. In the example below we use one minute for each obstacle for explanation purposes. For an intruder to enter through the red path requires breaching two obstacles while the blue and green path require breaching three or five obstacles respectively. For your planning purposes, this means you might want to add obstacles, sensors, or other defensive measures to cover the red path. It is also worth noting that by retreating to the bathroom (yellow) you can place an additional door between you and the threat. Each door or obstacle provides added protection and buys more time for help to arrive.





LAYERS OF OBSTACLES

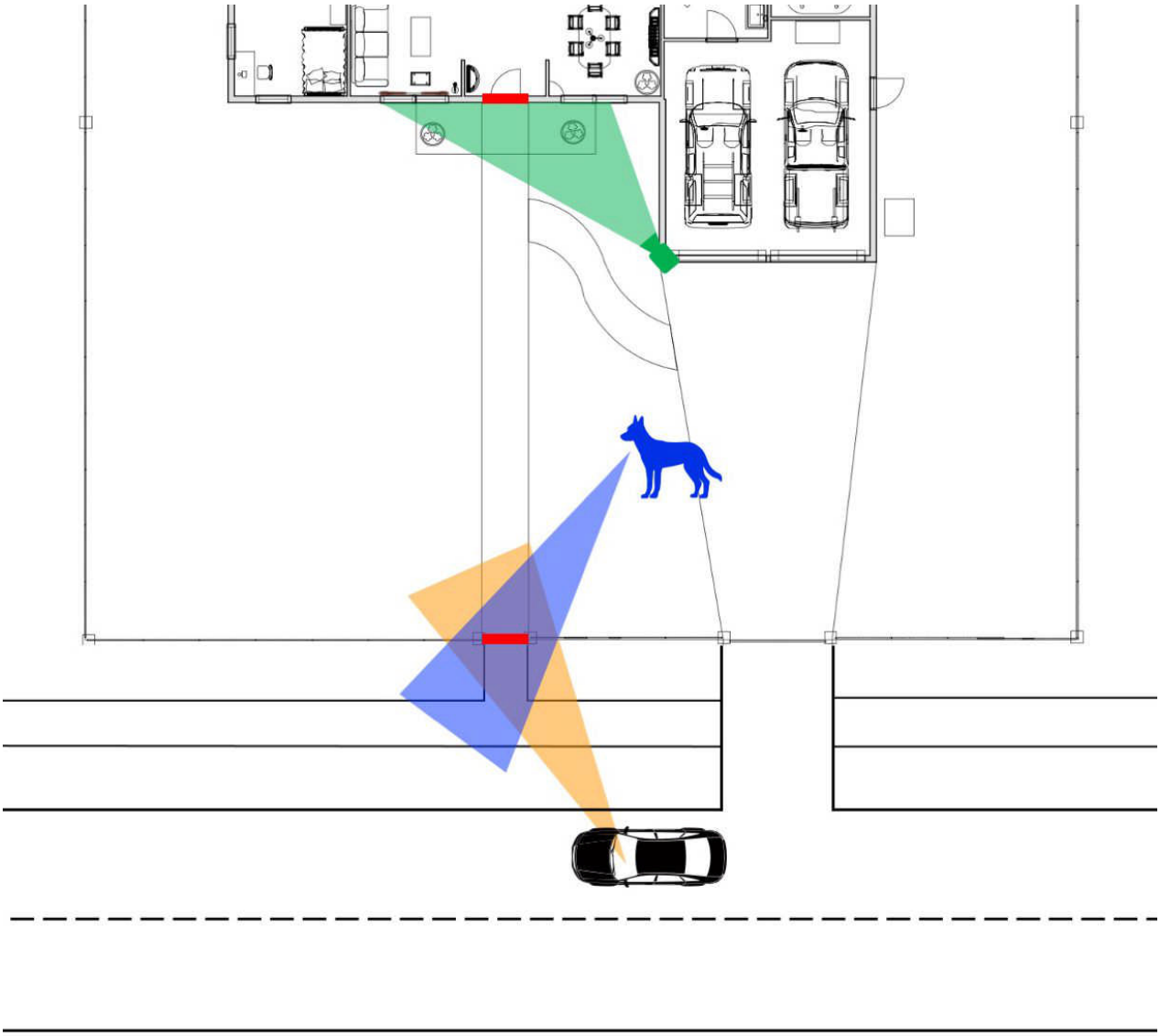
Reinforcing Obstacles

In the example on the previous page, we estimated it would take one minute for an intruder to breach each door/obstacle. If you layer three obstacles between you and the intruder that means you have three minutes before the intruder is able to reach you. Now consider what happens if you reinforce each of those obstacles. If a door with only a knob lock takes an intruder one minute to breach, maybe adding a dead bolt will mean the intruder needs an extra minute to breach the door. Adding a door chain might add an additional minute. If you do this for each door in the intruder's path your time window can expand from three minutes to nine minutes. Remember that these time calculations are generalized and for explanation purposes only. The key concept is that the more reinforced or secure a door or obstacle is the longer it will take to breach. If you are concerned about security, you can add dead bolts and chains to interior doors for use in an emergency. Barricading a door using either improvised or purpose-build security tools can significantly delay the intruder's advance as well. There are a number of devices on the market that you can apply quickly to reinforce a door or window. If you plan to use furniture to barricade a door, make sure you practice moving the furniture first to ensure you are strong enough to push it in front of the door in an emergency.

OBSTACLES AND OVERWATCH

Different Types of Overwatch

Obstacles are more effective when a person, dog or sensor is able to watch the obstacle. This increases the chances of catching an intruder in the act, places the intruder under additional stress and may deter the intruder from approaching the obstacle at all. For example, an intruder might be hesitant to break through or climb over your front gate/fence because of the possibility of being seen by a car driving by (orange). Having a dog patrolling inside of a fence can make it much more difficult for an intruder to get past the fence (blue). Placing a camera watching an exterior door can deter an intruder from attempting to break through that door (green). These are just a few examples of how overwatch can enhance the effectiveness of obstacles.



HOME CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

Glass, Drywall and Other Flimsy Materials

It is not uncommon to see heavy doors with expensive locks, surrounded by large glass windows or drywall. Some types of windows are very sturdy but the glass used in most home construction is easy to break. If a glass panel or window is large enough, the intruder can break the glass and step through the opening. More commonly, the intruder can break the glass, reach around, and open the door from the inside. Drywall and other flimsy materials are often used to construct interior walls. While generally harder to break through than glass, an intruder armed with a sledgehammer or other breaching tool can break through a wall fairly easily and quickly. Therefore, when planning and emplacing obstacles you must not only consider the strength and durability of the door or obstacle itself, but also the other materials around the door. In some cases you might be able to reinforce these materials but in other cases you will need to work around these vulnerabilities and augment your security in other ways using sensors and defensive tactics.

ALERT, HARDENING AND RESPONSE
Response Planning

The response is the final aspect of the alert, hardening and response triad. Ultimately, the alert system and hardening obstacles are just means to an end. The response is the most important, final factor that will determine whether you and your family safely make it through a hostile attack or emergency situation. If you have emplaced sensors and obstacles wisely, they should set you up for success when it comes to your response.

Depending on your individual situation, your responses to a threat or home invasion may vary. The arrival of local law enforcement will always factor in to the response plan but in some cases, law enforcement assets might be too far away to respond in time. If you have military, law enforcement or weapons experience you may be very confident in your own defensive response to a threat. In other cases, you might be terrified by the prospect of a break in and counting on law enforcement or capable neighbors to come to your aid. Your personal response plan might not involve fighting back but instead might call for running away or hiding in a secure room.

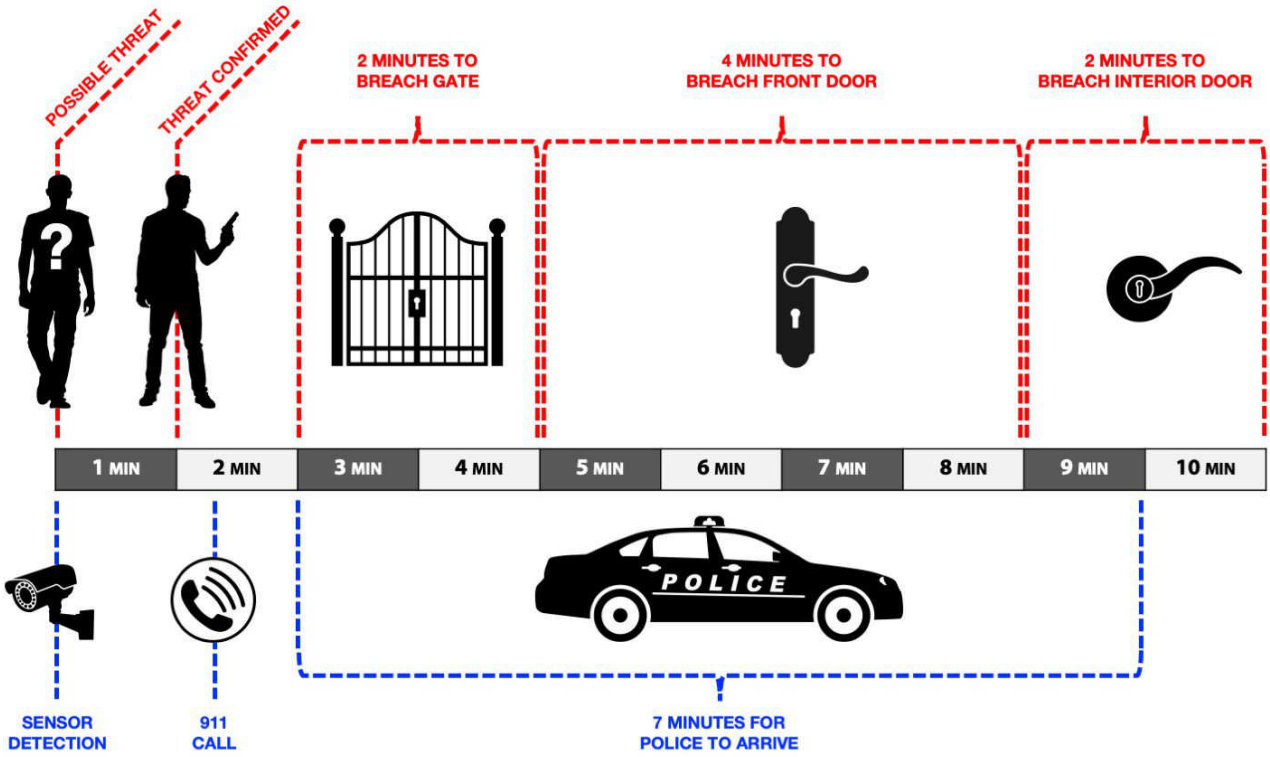
Your unique response plan will depend on your situation and individual defense capabilities. What will not change is the fact that your response, whatever it is, must be carefully coordinated with your alert system and defensive obstacles. Most importantly, you must lay out all of these factors on a timeline to ensure your defensive plan makes sense and is likely to work in an emergency situation.

The best way to refine your defensive plan, defensive timeline and response plan is to practice them under the most realistic conditions possible. If your response plan involves moving your wife and three children into a secure closet and sliding a piece of heavy furniture in front of the bedroom door, you should practice these actions and time how long it takes to complete them. The more accurate information you can collect and the more realistic your rehearsals the greater your chances of success will be in a real-world emergency.

SENSORS, OBSTACLES AND RESPONSE

Incorporating Response Time into Your Plan

When developing your home defense plan, all of your sensors and obstacles need to tie in to a planned response. First, you need to determine the estimated response time. This might be the time it takes for the police to arrive or the time it takes for you to get out of bed, secure your personal weapon and assume a defensive position. Given this response time, the purpose of your sensors and alert plan is to start the response time clock ticking as early as possible. The purpose of obstacles is to slow the intruder down while that response clock is running. The diagram below shows how you might lay out these factors and events on a timeline. If you are depending on a seven-minute police response, you will need to emplace enough obstacles to delay the intruder for at least eight minutes assuming you detect the threat and make the 911 call right away. Of course, it is impossible to calculate exact time values since police response times might vary and intruders might break through obstacles quickly or slowly. However, the purpose of estimating the various time intervals below is to get a general idea of whether your defense plan makes sense or not. As long as times generally add up, your defense plan has a good chance of succeeding. However, there are many cases when performing a few simple calculations exposes the fact that a plan is completely unrealistic. In these cases you must adjust your sensors, obstacles and response plans to increase the chances of success. For example, if there is no way that police will arrive quickly enough, you might need to focus on improving your personal or neighborhood defensive response.



SENSORS, OBSTACLES AND RESPONSE

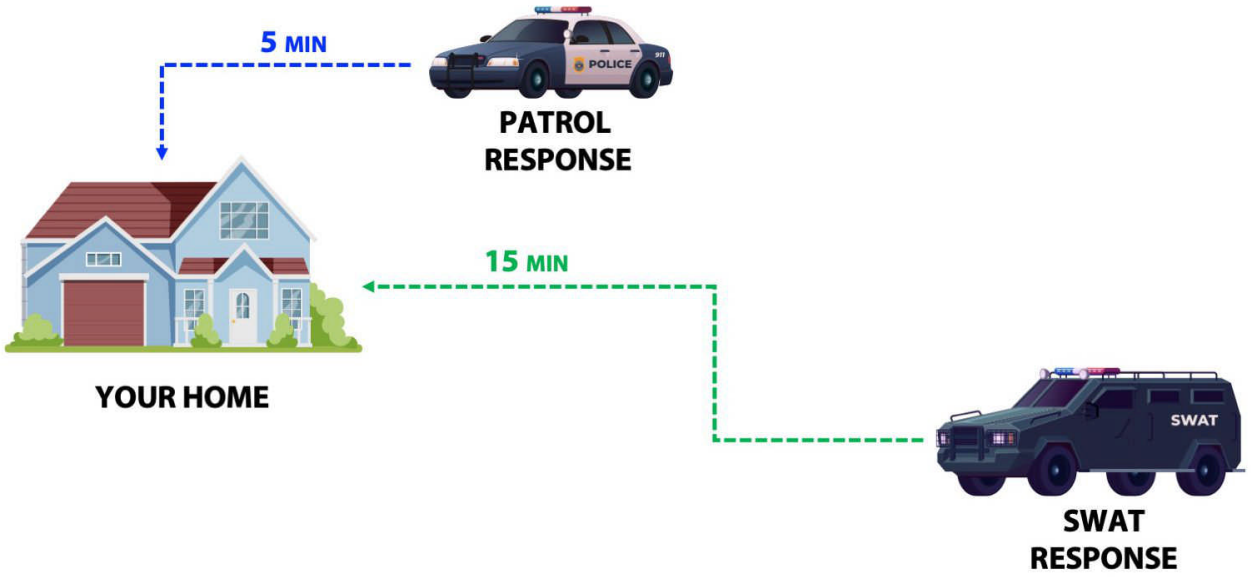
Initial Detection, Obstacles and Hostile Intent

One advantage of obstacles is that they force intruders to expose their hostile intent early. In the scenario on the previous page, the timeline starts when a security camera spots a possible threat, however you will probably not make the 911 call (or the automated security system will not go off) until hostile intent is confirmed. Consider the example below. If a house does not have a locked exterior fence, then someone carrying a package can walk all the way up to your front door without arousing suspicion. If you detect this person on your security camera you will most likely not call 911 since the person might be innocently making a delivery. Therefore, if the delivery man is actually a hostile intruder, he has managed to disguise his hostile intent and greatly shorten your response time window. Furthermore, a neighbor or bystander who sees a man with a package entering your property will most likely not be suspicious. Smart intruders will always try to delay exposing their hostile intent in this way. However, an innocent delivery man will not climb over your fence to deliver a package and as soon as anyone sees the intruder starting to climb the fence they can make the 911 call. Therefore, placing obstacles in an intruder's path, particularly perimeter fences, is a good way to extend your response time window.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Different Response Times and Coordination

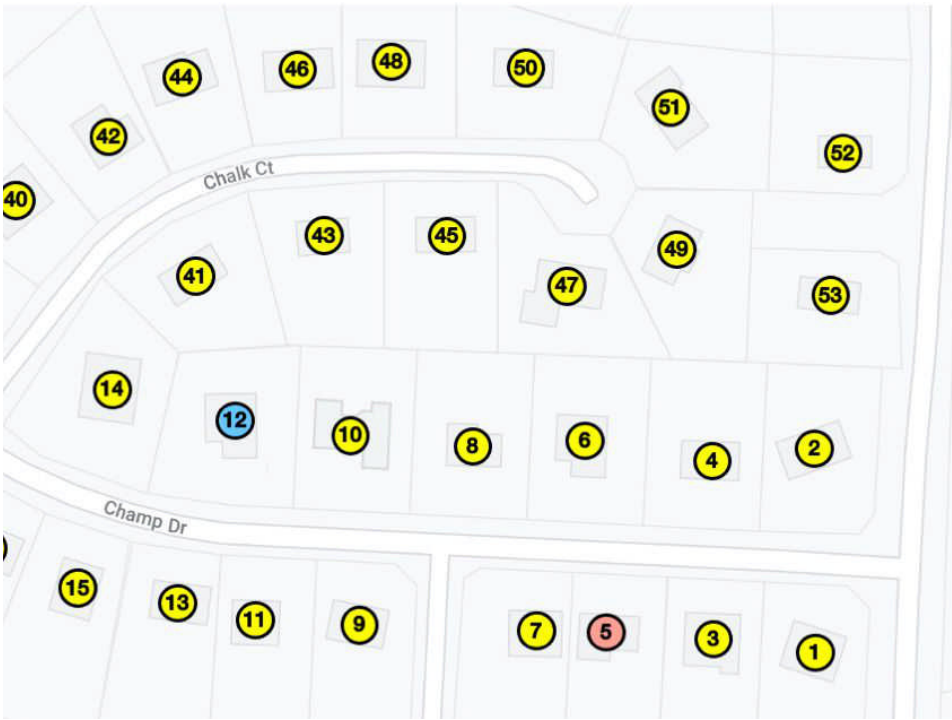
Even if you are well prepared to defend your own home, it is critical to integrate local law enforcement into your home defense plan. If you do not call the police and shots are fired on your property, a neighbor will most likely call the police and if they arrive while you are in a gun fight with intruders, the police might accidentally shoot you instead of the intruder. Therefore, just as military units operating in the same area need to coordinate, it is important to coordinate your home defense efforts with local law enforcement. If your individual home defense and fighting capability is limited, you may need to rely entirely on law enforcement to deal with the threat, making good coordination and planning even more critical. The first step is to see how long it takes to drive to your local police station to get a tentative police response time. It is better to keep this estimate conservative. You should then talk with the local department and ask them for their own response time estimate. If you or any of your neighbors call the police for any reason, take the opportunity to start a timer and see how long they take to arrive. Also note that if an intruder takes you hostage, police first responders will most likely not attempt to rescue you but will instead form a perimeter and wait for tactical units (SWAT) to arrive. It can therefore also be helpful to ask about response time for SWAT units as part of your planning. The response times for medical and fire assets might also be different and are worth researching. If you have established a neighborhood watch or defense plan, you should coordinate this effort with the police as much as possible. This might include passing a copy of your GRG (neighborhood tactical map) to police to assist them in command and control, or having a neighborhood liaison link up with first responders as they arrive to provide them with the latest intelligence and situation reports.



NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Shorter Response Times

In some cases, local law enforcement will be too far away to respond quickly enough in an emergency. When you are making your defense plan and laying out your timeline, you might find that no matter how many sensors or obstacles you emplace, you cannot realistically slow an intruder down long enough for police to arrive. In this case you must find other ways to respond to the threat. Even if police are close by, it is still a good idea to develop neighborhood response capabilities and procedures. One of the most basic involves highlighting the names and houses of certain individuals in your neighborhood on your GRG. In the example below, individuals with law enforcement, military or combat/weapons experience are highlighted in blue whereas individuals with medical experience are highlighted in red. If you yourself are not skilled or confident with a firearm, a skilled neighbor might be able to come to the rescue in a very short time window. As just mentioned, these designated neighborhood responders should coordinate with local law enforcement as much as possible to prevent confusion and accidents. If you do develop this sort of neighborhood response, the more planning you can conduct the better. Planning might include ensuring responders have a binder with all of the neighborhood home floorplans and defense plans. If an emergency takes place in a given house, the responder can pull the laminated floorplan of the same number and immediately know the family's planned escape routes and hide locations. This is just one example of a planning measure that might mitigate risk in an emergency.

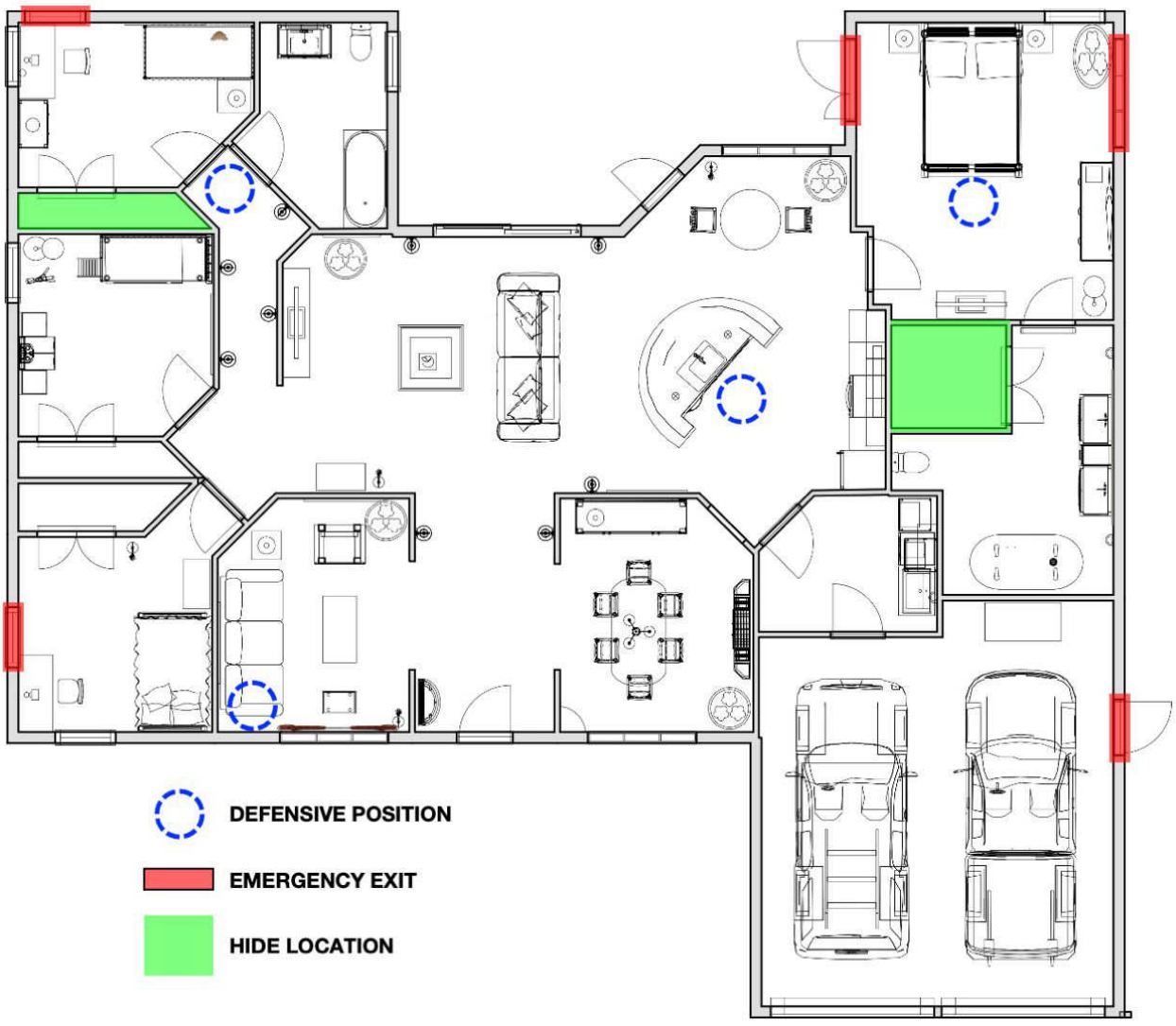


#	NAME	PHONE
1	John Stanley	910-265-7453
2	Bill Frost	910-265-6874
3	Ken Davis	910-495-2930
4	Fred Parker	910-223-0596
5	Sue Ford	910-959-1359
6	Jake Sims	910-258-9642
7	Polly Cruz	910-226-9485
8	Rex Billings	910-333-5885
9	Carl Stokes	910-623-4491
10	John Smith	910-299-6714
11	Phil Stevens	910-222-0937
12	Jack Porter	910-109-3426
13	Steve Parks	910-878-5552
14	Randy White	910-202-2231
15	Stacy Wu	910-041-2343
16	Stanley Crow	910-114-7253
17	Frank Fox	910-334-5453
18	Pete Acer	910-789-2002
19	Molly Strake	910-843-2369
20	Bella Rodin	910-763-1468
21	Andy Brody	910-442-8878
22	Charlie Zax	910-243-0095
23	Damon Lowe	910-777-0034
24	Liz Winkler	910-909-9897
25	Gabe Ringo	910-345-9786
26	Holly Morris	910-211-1254
27	Hank Patton	910-747-3332
28	Joe Bradley	910-238-9743
29	Monty Slim	910-954-8787
30	Hans Kringle	910-112-9878

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE

Options to Run, Hide or Fight

In addition to factoring police and neighborhood response into your defense plan and timeline, you must also plan your individual/family response to an emergency. In general, your three response options are to run, hide and/or fight. Some trainers incorrectly teach that you must execute each of those options in sequence or pick only one. In reality, you might use any combination of run, hide and fight in any order. If you plan exits through windows, ensure you have the appropriate tools nearby to ensure a safe exit such as a crowbar (for raking away glass), rubber doormat to (drape over the sill), or emergency ladder attached to a strong anchor point (if there is a drop to the ground). When planning hide locations, reinforce doors, locks or even walls if possible. We will discuss defensive fighting positions more later on.



HOME DEFENSE TACTICS
Weapon Selection, Safety and Training

If your individual response to a hostile attack on your property involves fighting back against the intruders you will probably want to purchase a personal firearm and train to use it effectively. Recent trends have shown that criminals are using powerful weapons more and more frequently in violent crimes. If the intruders breaking in to your house have guns and you do not, you will not have a good chance of defeating them in combat. Building off this logic, it makes sense to purchase the most powerful weapon you can safely handle. If you have a pistol with 15 shots and the attackers each have a rifle with 30 shots you will be at a clear disadvantage.

However, as we will discuss more later in this section, one of the most common mistakes people make is that they think that merely buying a gun will improve their security. Even the most powerful weapon in inexperienced hands is likely to be more of a liability than a help in an emergency situation. Far too many people purchase guns but never take the time to practice and train to the point where they can actually employ those guns safely and effectively.

It would be impossible to cover all of the critical points involved with weapon selection, safety and training in just one chapter. However, Special Tactics plans to publish other books covering these topics in more detail. In addition, there are quite a few good books, videos and training schools that provide good firearms training and advice. If you are new to firearms and decide to purchase one, we strongly recommend that you take your training seriously and invest in high-quality, realistic training opportunities as often as possible.

This section on firearms is closely connected with the following sections on Close Quarters Battle (CQB). Even if you are skilled with a firearm and devote time and energy to conducting realistic training, in order to have the best chance of fighting and winning a gunfight in the confined quarters of your home you must also be skilled and knowledgeable in CQB tactics. Therefore, try to make the connection between marksmanship skill and real-world tactical applications as much as possible. We will discuss this more in detail later on.

WEAPON SELECTION

Factors to Consider When Choosing a Personal Weapon

There is no right answer when it comes to choosing a firearm for home defense. Every person is different and the most important factor in weapon selection is finding a weapon that is right for you, based on your situation and personal preferences. If you already have weapon experience, you have had the chance to see what works and doesn't work for you and most likely do not need much additional help choosing a weapon. However, if you are less experienced with weapons, our general advice is to keep things as simple as possible until you have more time to practice. Simplicity generally means selecting a weapon that is easy to operate, that has minimal recoil and a high magazine capacity. Smaller, lighter weapons like pistols or carbines are easier to manipulate, especially if you are smaller in stature or working in confined spaces. Pick a sight or optic (like a holographic sight) that makes it easy to aim quickly under stress in low light conditions. Selecting a pistol with a single trigger pull (like a Glock) is also generally easier for less experienced shooters. While more experienced shooters might opt for a more powerful or higher-caliber weapon because of increased stopping power, these weapons (like shotguns or large caliber pistols) often have powerful recoil characteristics that can be difficult for less experienced shooters to manage. Finally, large magazine capacity is particularly important for less experienced shooters. Reloading under pressure can be dangerous and challenging even for skilled tacticians. Therefore, a larger magazine capacity means you will be less likely run out of bullets and/or need to change magazines in a fight. These are just a few points on weapon selection for less experienced shooters. As you practice more and gain experience you can adjust your weapon selections based on your personal preferences. Note that the weapon pictures below are just generic examples and not recommended weapons or weapon configurations.

WEAPON SAFETY

The Four Rules of Weapon Safety

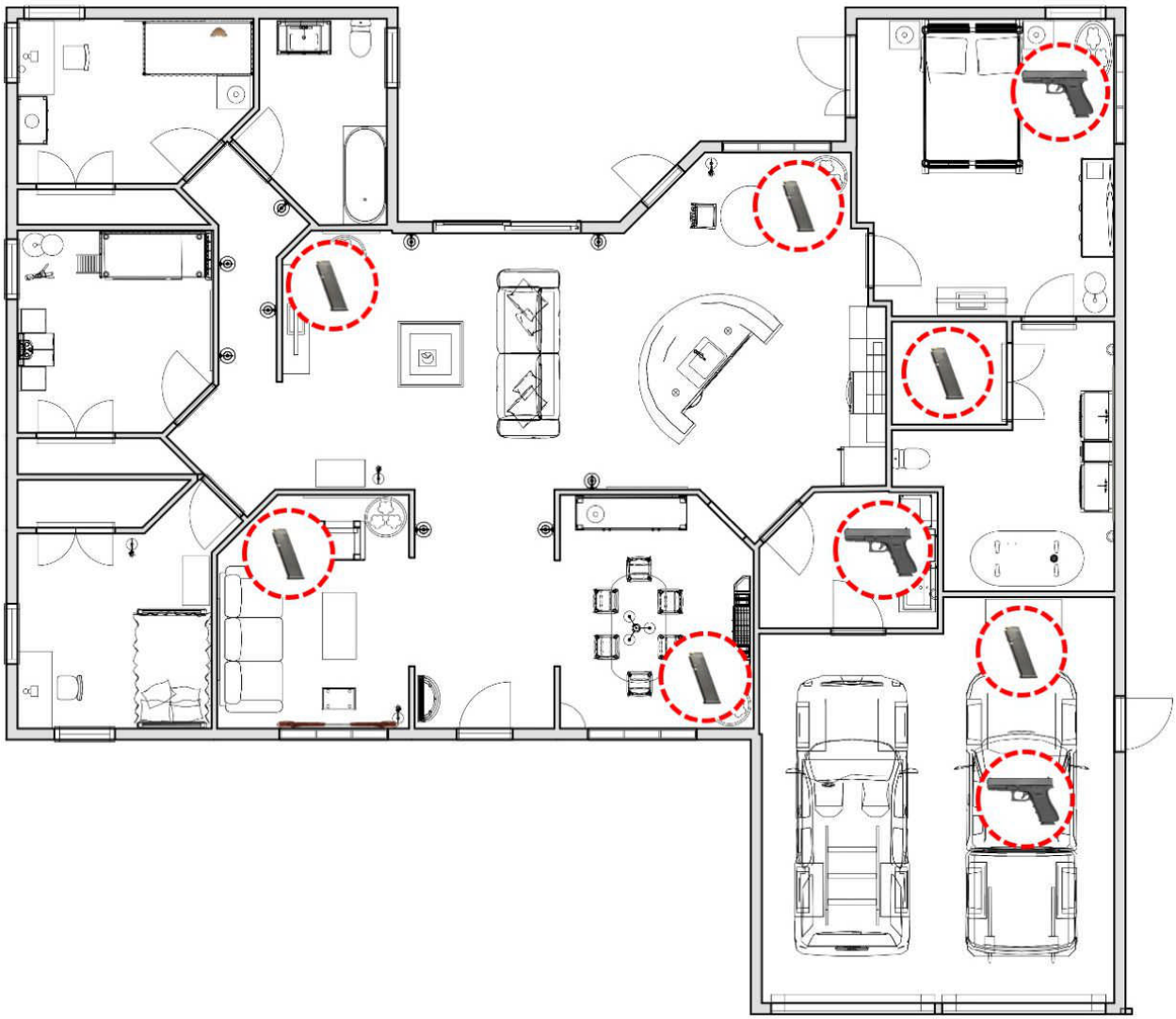
Firearms are very dangerous and accidents are common for inexperienced shooters who do not observe proper weapon safetey procedures. The four rules below are generally accepted as the foundation for practicing weapon safety. One point worth adding is that you must also consider what is beyond your target. If you fire at an intruder the bullet might pass through the threat and hit a family member or innocent person standing behind. Also, if your weapon has a decocker level instead of a safety, be sure to decock when not firing.

TREAT EVERY WEAPON AS IF IT IS LOADED UNTIL YOU CLEAR IT
DON'T POINT YOUR WEAPON AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT INTEND TO DESTROY
KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER AT ALL TIMES UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO FIRE
KEEP THE WEAPON ON SAFE AT ALL TIMES UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO FIRE
FIRE
SAFE

WEAPON POSITIONING AND STORAGE

Prepositioning Weapons and Ammunition

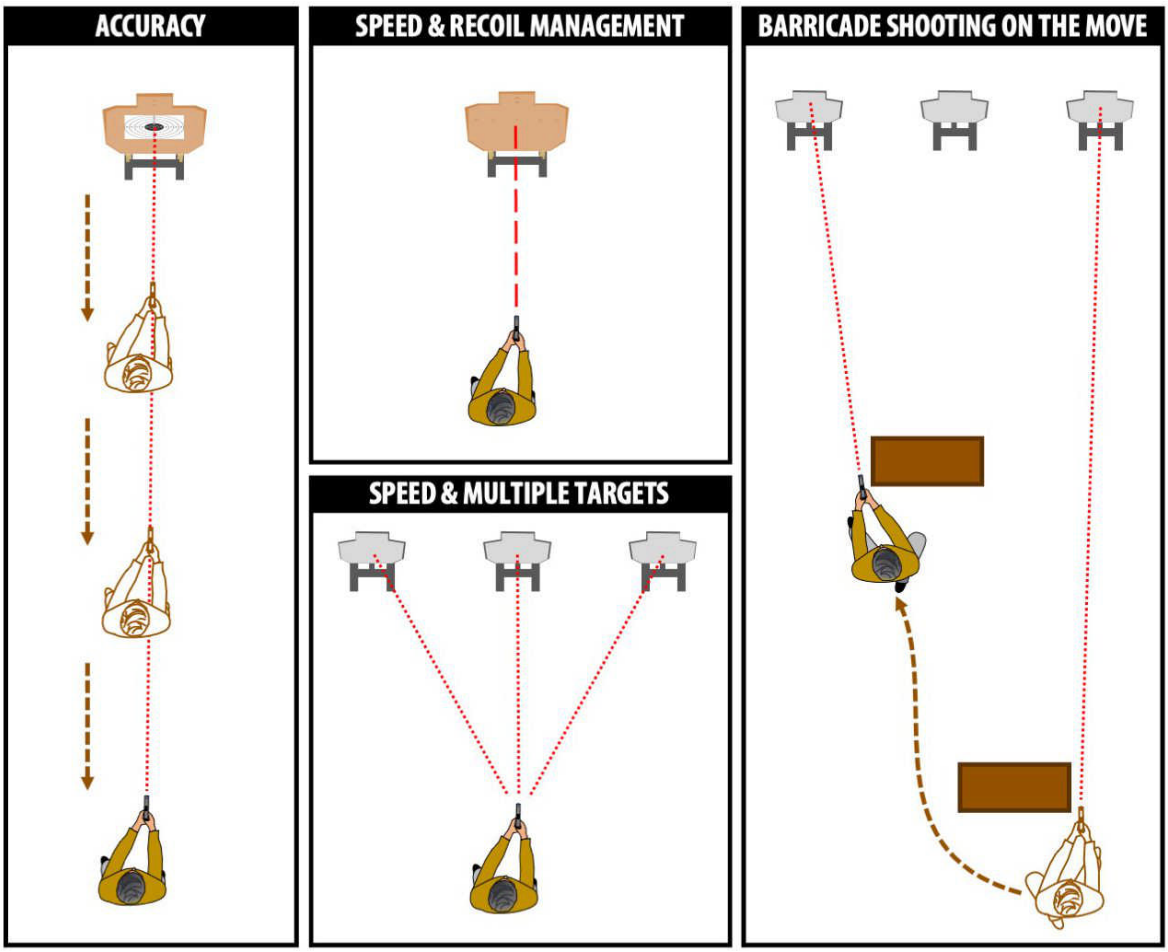
If you have small children in the house, the first critical point is to ensure all weapons are stored safely out of their reach, either in a gun safe or secured and hidden high off the ground. Do not hide loaded weapons under furniture, in desk drawers or other places where curious children might explore. It is generally a good idea to either carry a weapon on your person or keep one in a safe location close to you at all times. In addition, you can hide backup weapons in other locations around the house or in your vehicle in case you lose your primary weapon. It can also be helpful to hide spare magazines around the house in case you run out of ammunition in a gun fight with an intruder. The illustration below gives a general example of these points.



WEAPONS TRAINING

Examples of Training Drills and Techniques

Unfortunately, many people who buy firearms for home defense spend very little time actually training or practicing. Those who do train often do nothing more than shooting at a single, stationary, paper target, in good lighting conditions under no stress or time constraints. This is not good preparation for a potential home defense scenario that might involve shooting multiple, moving targets in the dark under extreme stress. A good tactical firearms training program involves frequent and realistic practice. The pictures below give some very general examples of useful drills and training techniques. Practice shooting a small target from farther and farther away to build accuracy. Buy a shot timer and practice drawing and placing multiple shots in a single target as quickly as possible to build speed and recoil management. If your range allows, practice shooting multiple targets and shooting on the move as well. Finally, for people who are very unfamiliar with firearms, there is nothing wrong with starting out with a pellet gun or laser training system for basic familiarization before moving on to live ammunition.



HOME DEFENSE TACTICS
Singleton Close Quarters Battle

As already mentioned, this section builds off the previous section on firearms training. Both firearms skills and close quarters battle (CQB) tactics are important to winning a gun fight in a real-world emergency. Even if you are very skilled with a firearm, if you have never practiced moving from room to room and taking advantage of covered and concealed firing positions within your house, you will be less prepared for a gun fight with a hostile intruder.

The following two sections draw from Special Tactics' longer books on single-person (singleton) and two-person CQB. They provide only a brief introduction to CQB tactics and aim to provide the most relevant tactics and techniques for a home-defense scenario. We have also found other ways to shorten or abridge our CQB instruction. For example, instead of providing instructions for clearing through a closed door and an open door, we provide only instructions on dealing with a closed door, since once the closed door is open, the technique is the same. If you would like more detailed instruction on single-person CQB we recommend the Special Tactics book on that subject.

Single-Person CQB in a Home Invasion Scenario

As soon as you detect an intruder on your property with hostile intent you should call the police. As soon as the line connects, say the words home invasion and give your name and address even if they do not ask for it. If you are calling from a mobile phone, the police may not be able to locate you and in the stress of the situation you may not realize what phone you are using. Give your name and address immediately.

It is important to tell the police that you are armed and prepared to defend yourself from the intruders. This will help prevent the police from accidentally shooting you if they see you holding a gun. If you have time, it might also help to tell the police what you are wearing so they can identify you more easily. From there, follow the instructions of the person on the phone. He or she will instruct you to stay on the line if possible. Therefore, it is good to have a headset ready

so you can keep both hands on your weapon and still communicate with the police. Give them as much information on the situation and the intruders as possible.

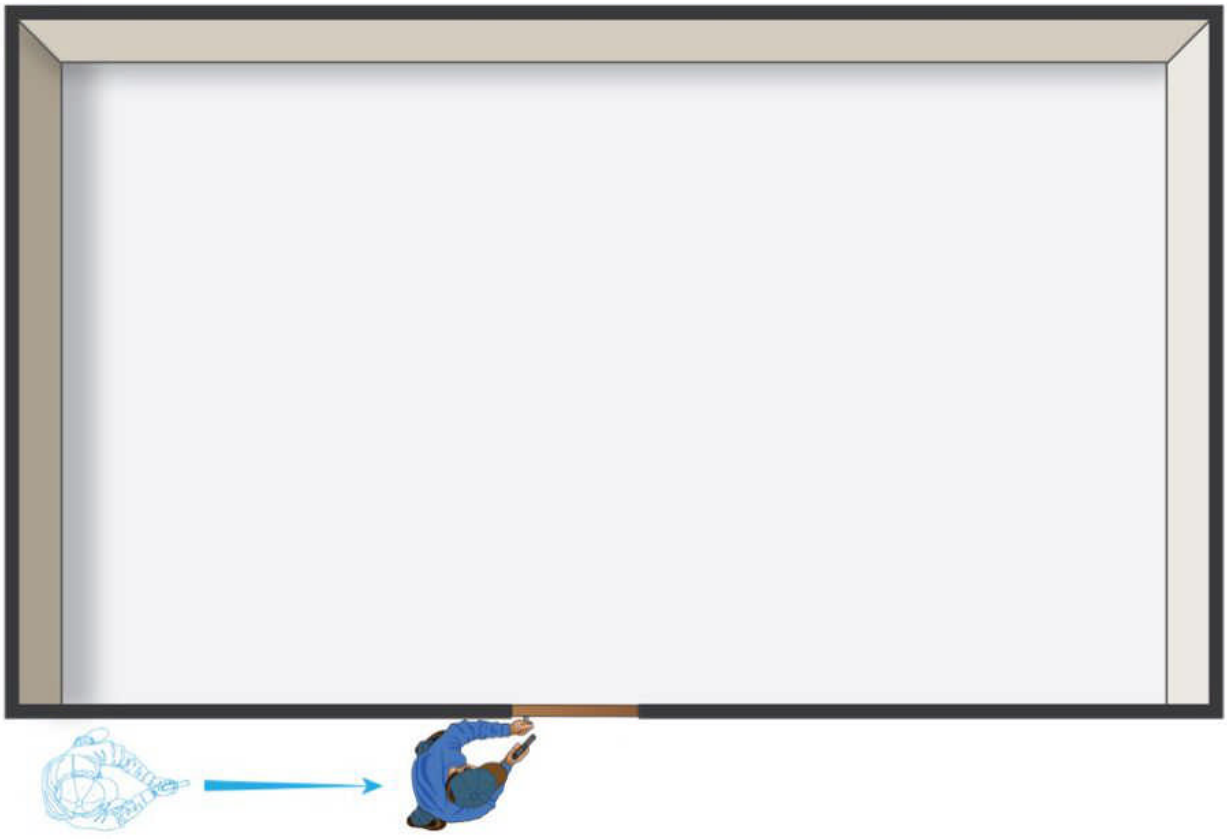
As you prepare to fight, understand that you have many advantages working in your favor. First, this is your home and you know the layout better than the intruders. Ideally, you have practiced using CQB techniques to clear your house many times and this will make your movements faster and smoother. Another advantage you have going for you is that you do not need to find and engage the intruders. If you hide in one place and avoid contact until the police arrive, that is a satisfactory outcome. This means there may be no need to expose yourself, cross hallways, stairs, or other danger areas. Since you are on the defensive, you can isolate the fight to the place of your choosing, simplifying the problem for you but making it harder for the intruder.

Another advantage you have is that closed doors work in your favor. The intruder has to open closed doors or break through locked or barricaded doors. This makes noise and buys you time to call the police, set up your defensive position or escape. Given this fact, if you have time you might want to barricade doors to protect yourself. As already discussed earlier in the defensive obstacles section, have a barricade plan and practice moving the furniture to barricade doors beforehand to ensure the furniture is not too heavy to move in an emergency situation.

CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

STEP 1 – Open the Door

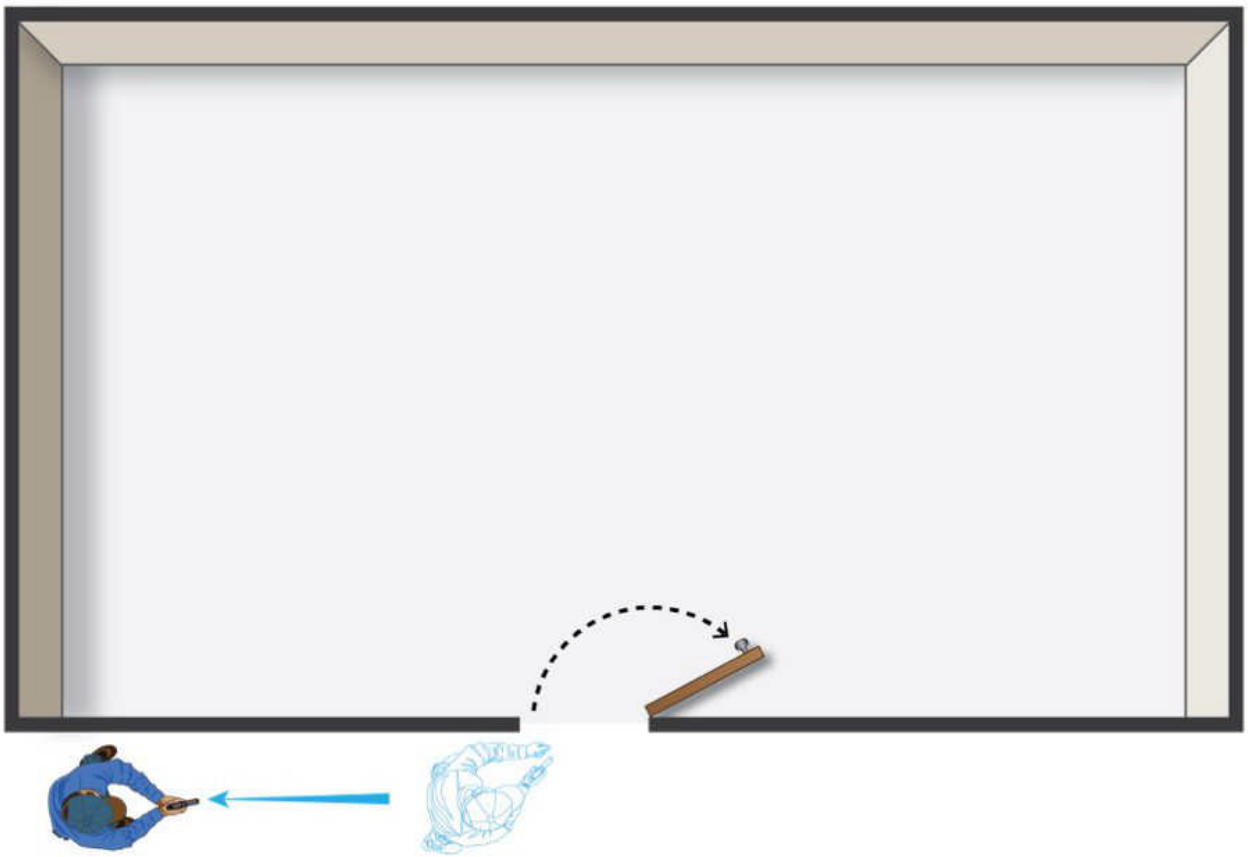
To enter a room with a closed door, you must first open the door before you can conduct your sweep. To open the door, position yourself close to the wall and away from the door. Keep your weapon at the ready and oriented towards the door just in case the door opens and an adversary walks out. Move towards the door quickly, grasp the doorknob with your non-firing hand and swing the door open.



CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

STEP 2 – Back Away

Once the door is open, back away from the door immediately. You will need to use your arm to push or pull the door as hard as possible to ensure it swings open while you begin to back away. As you open the door, your first objective is to draw the adversary out or trigger a response that allows you to detect the adversary while still keeping your distance from the door.



CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

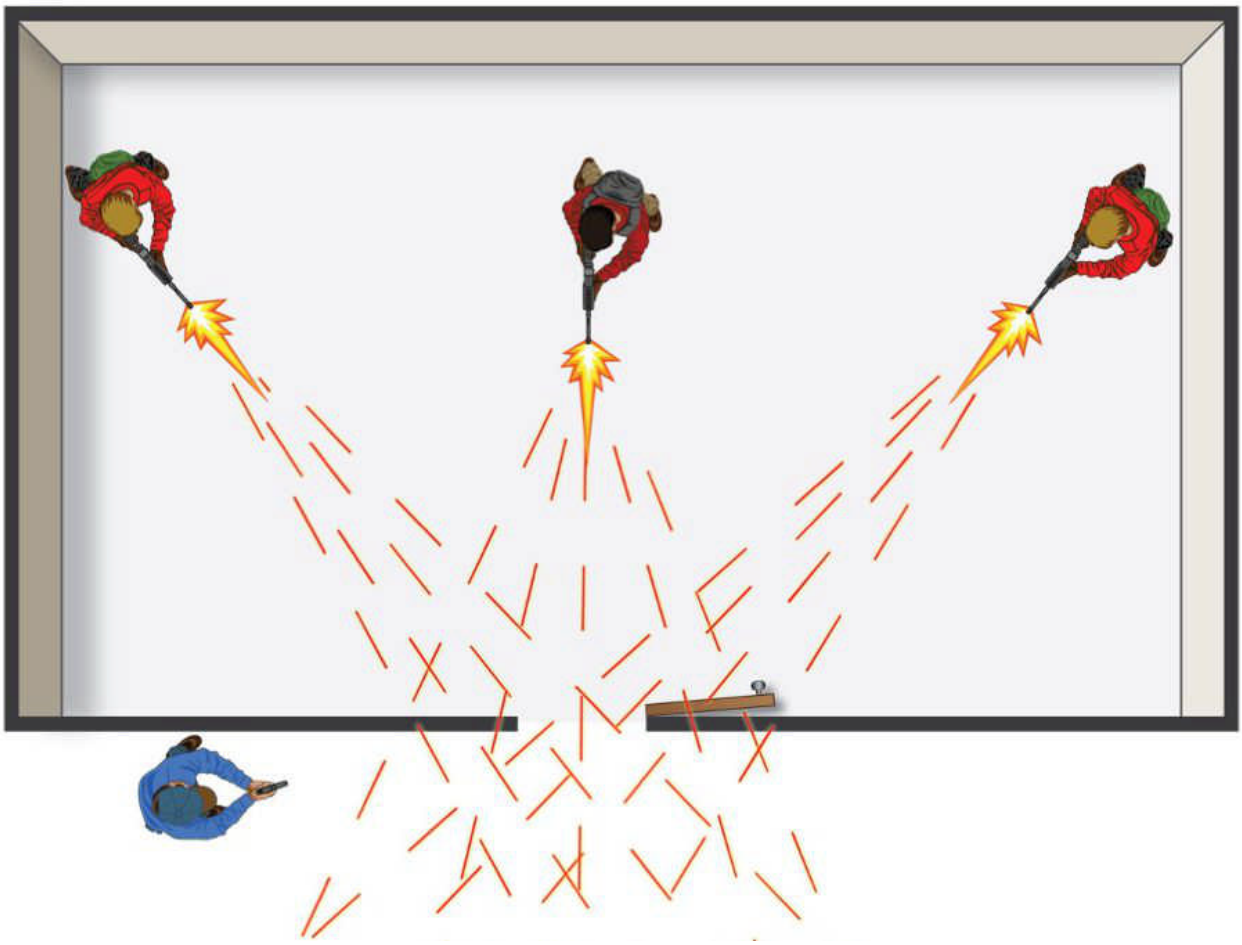
STEP 3 – Use the Door to Your Advantage

Which way the door opens and which side the hinges are on is not critical. However, if the door opens inward it is ideal to open the door from the doorknob side if possible. This is because as the door swings inward and you are backing away, the opening door will momentarily conceal you as you back away. If the door opens outward, it is ideal to open the door from the hinges side (opposite the doorknob) for the same reason. The opening door will provide at least some degree of concealment and protection, even though it is probably not bulletproof. When opening the door, make sure to step out of the way and let the door swing open in front of you so it does not interfere with your vision or your weapon.

CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

STEP 4 – Avoid Indiscriminate Fire

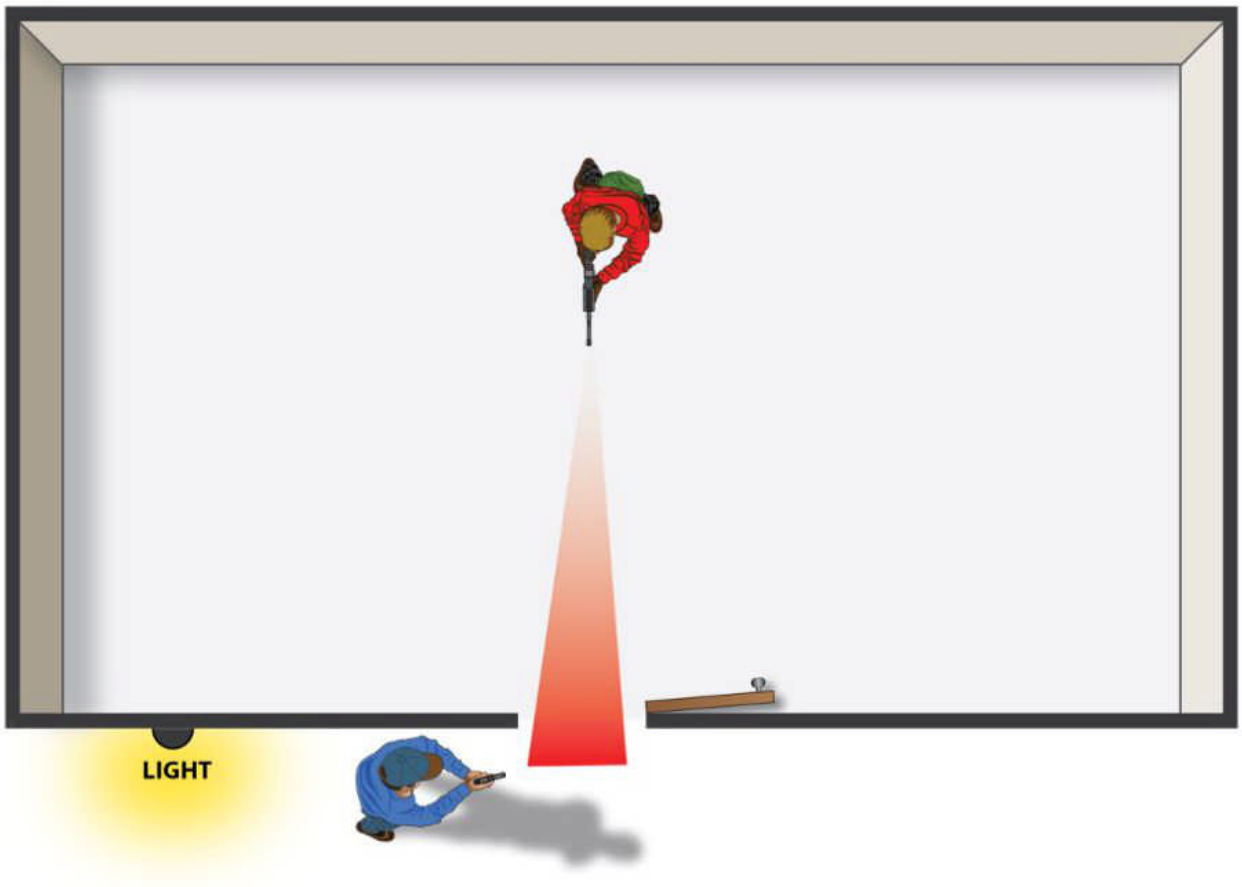
After opening the door it is important to stay back from the doorway. Many adversaries, especially terrorists with automatic weapons, will not fire single, aimed shots but will rather spray bullets indiscriminately in the direction of any noise or potential threat. This spray of bullets will generally form an arc several meters wide. If you stay close to a door and the adversary detects you, you might get hit with a barrage of bullets coming through the doorway and the walls surrounding the doorway. Remember, that most interior walls are not bulletproof and the chances of getting shot through a wall are very high. By staying several meters back from the door, you minimize the chances of getting hit by indiscriminate fire.



CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

STEP 5 – Watch Your Shadow

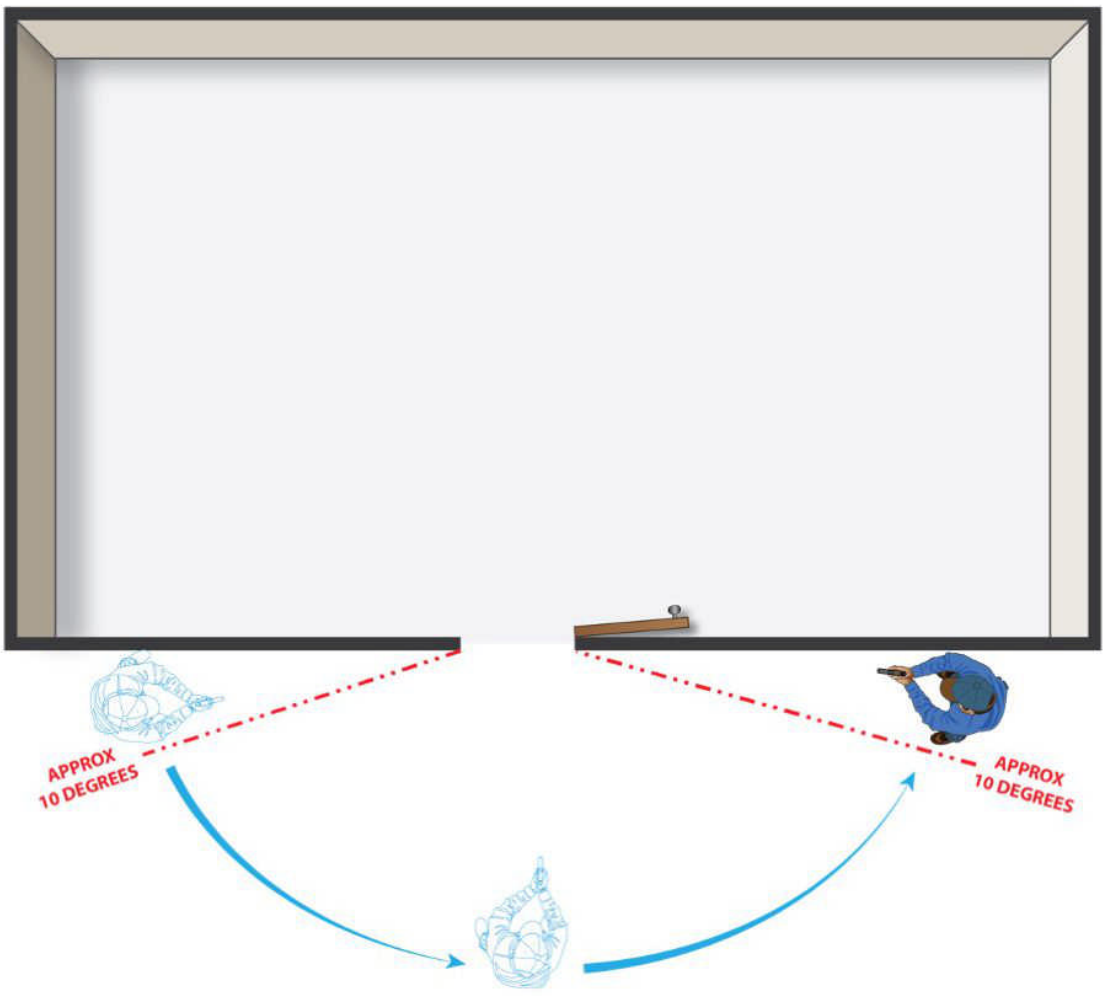
Staying back from the door also minimizes your chances of detection, especially in terms of shadows created by interior lights. Most homes or buildings have multiple light sources in each room or hallway. This means that when you come close to an open door, someone standing inside the room can most likely see your shadow moving across the floor behind the opening. Keep your distance from the door and try to remain aware of your shadow as you move.



CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

STEP 6 – Conduct "Sweep" Movement

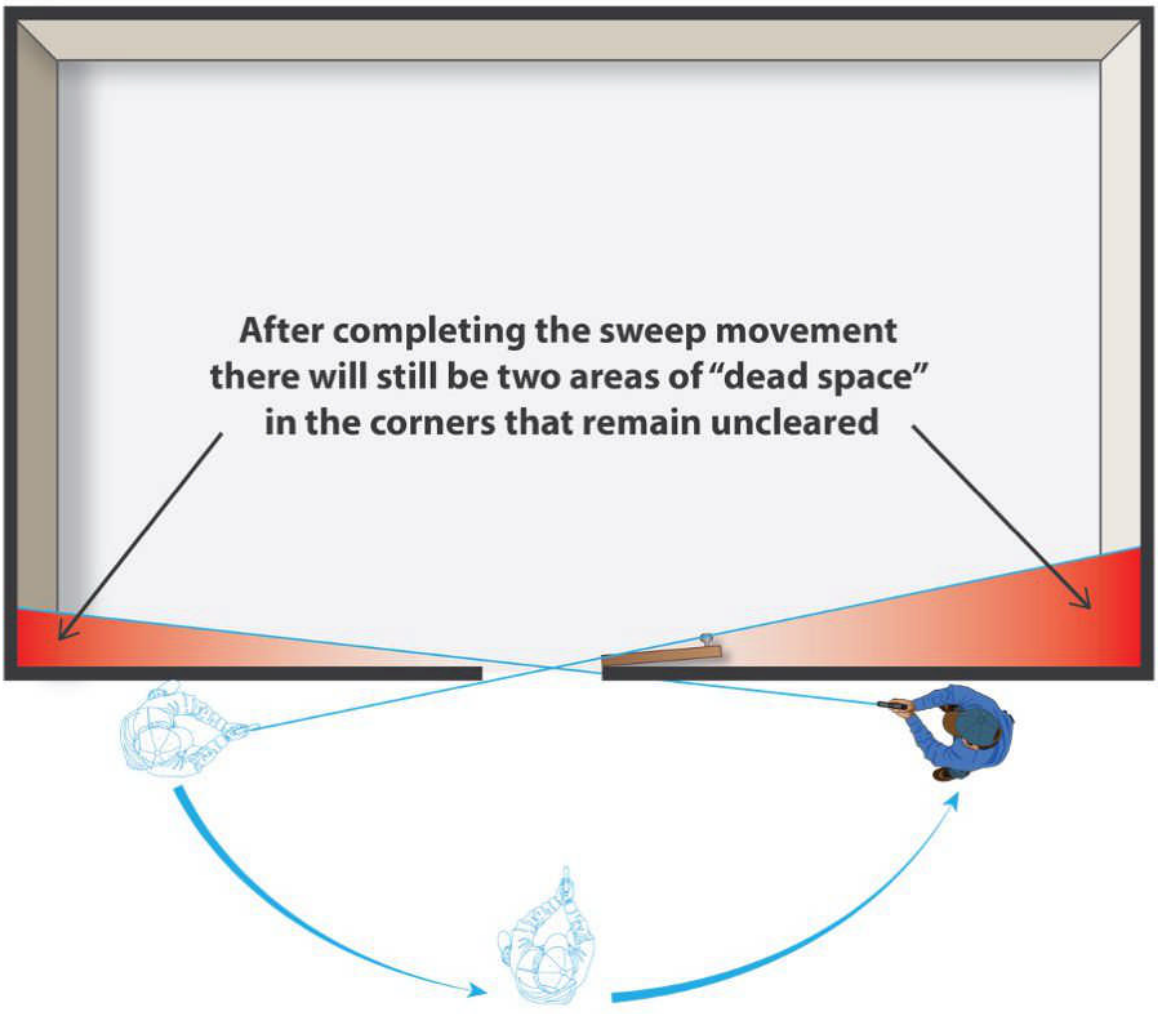
The next step is to sweep out in a wide arc, keeping your weapon focused on the doorway. Keep your distance from the door and move all the way across until you are positioned close to the wall on the opposite side of the door. Your aim is to visually clear the room from the outside as quickly as possible to identify any threats inside and possibly draw those threats out of the room. When executing the sweep, move in an arc as fast as you can while keeping your weapon relatively steady and taking care not to trip. You are giving up some weapon accuracy in order to minimize exposure and make yourself less of a target. By moving quickly along the arc, it will be quite difficult for an adversary to shoot you since you will be exposed for only a fraction of a second. With practice you will also learn to engage targets as you sweep across the door. Once you have completed your sweep, you can conduct additional sweeps if needed to check the room more carefully.



CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

STEP 7 – Recognize "Dead Space"

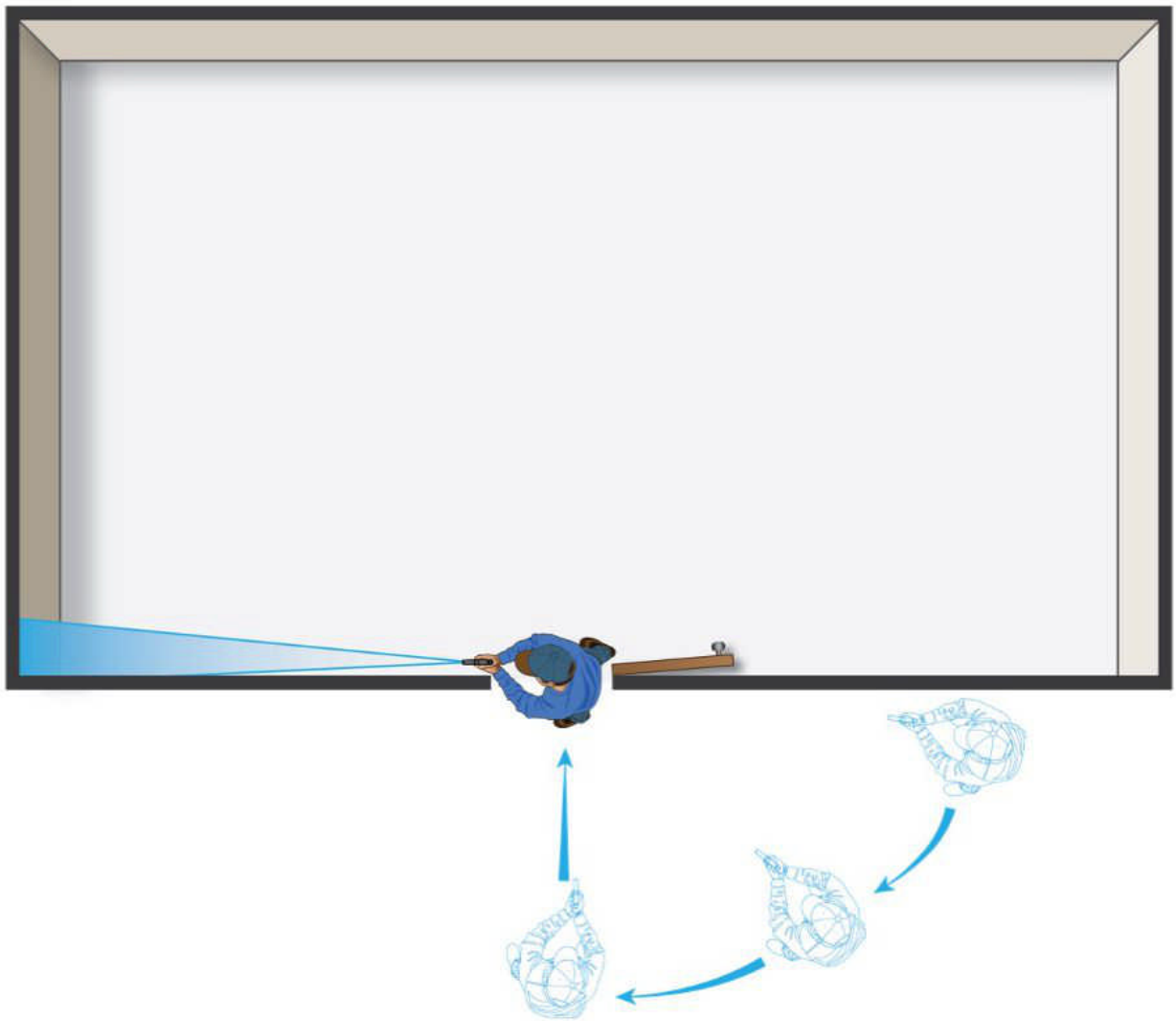
Once you reach the opposite side of the door, keep your distance since the adversary might fire indiscriminately in the direction of the doorway. Keep your weapon at the ready, focused on the door. One of the main advantages of the sweep technique is that it can draw adversaries out of the room, directly into your sights as you wait covering the door. So, once the sweep is complete, you can wait momentarily to draw adversaries out or listen to hear movement coming from inside the room. However, do not wait too long since the longer you stay in one place the easier it is for adversaries to maneuver against you. The task of clearing the room is not yet complete because even if your sweep revealed no threats, there will still be two slices of "dead space" that are not yet clear in each corner of the target room.



CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

STEP 8 – Clear the Corner Away from the Door

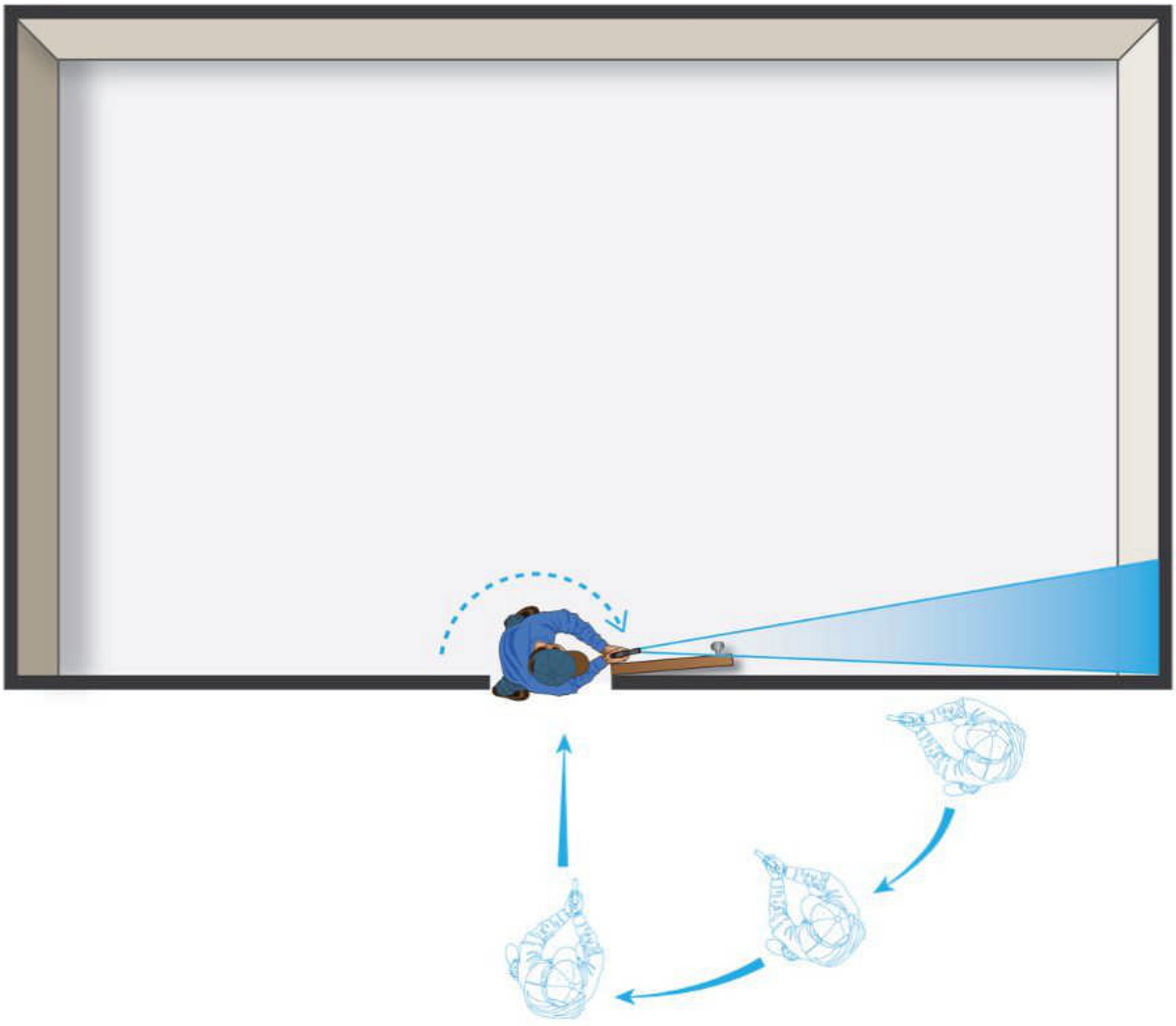
To clear the two remaining corners, you will sweep along the arc in the opposite direction until you are facing directly towards the door. Move towards the door and as soon as you reach the threshold, lean into the room and clear one of the two corners, exposing as little of your body as possible. Generally, if the door opens inward, it is best to clear first in the direction opposite the swing of the door. However, if you hear noise or see light or movement coming from either direction, you might want to clear in that direction first, regardless of which way the door opens.



CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CENTER-FED CLOSED DOOR

STEP 9 – Clear the Corner Towards the Door

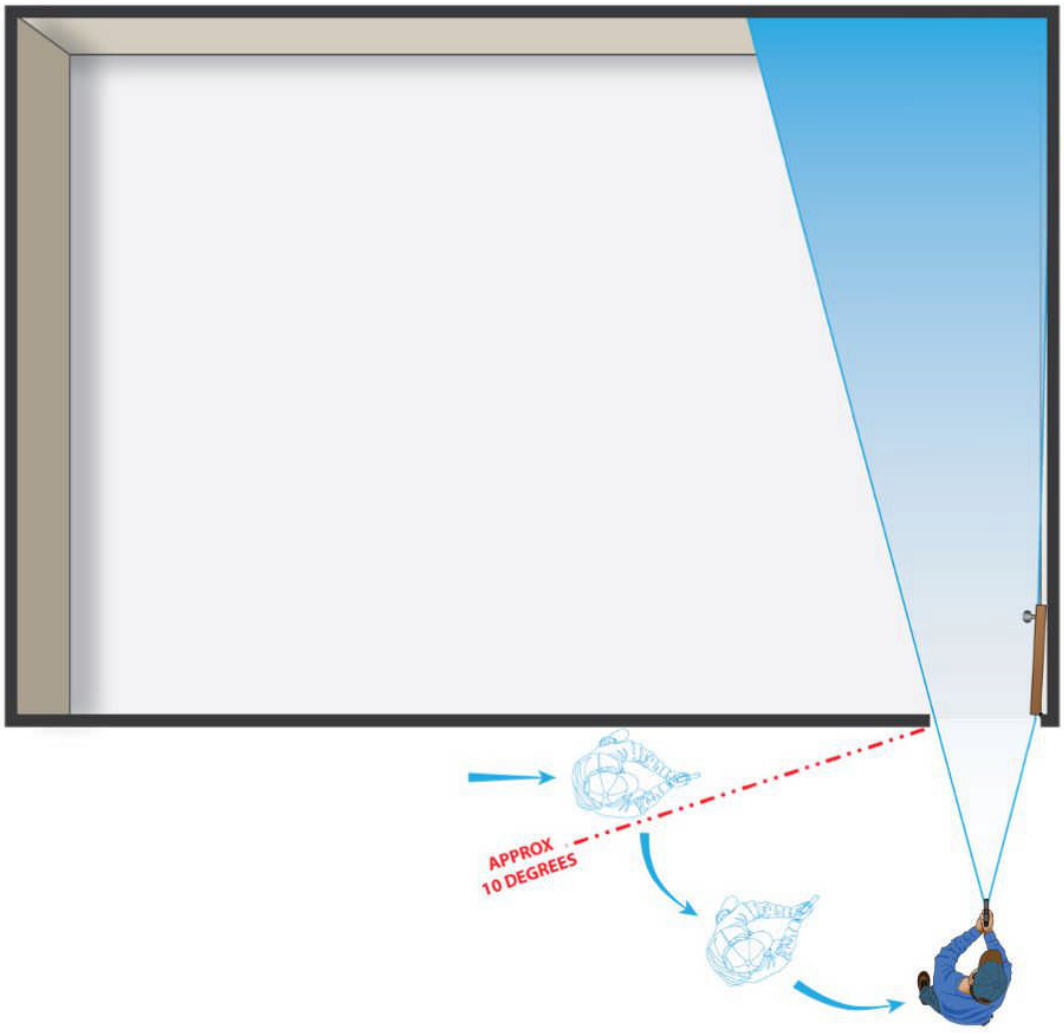
Once you have cleared one corner, rapidly turn 180-degrees and clear the opposite corner. Then, immediately back away from the doorway just in case an adversary is hiding in the room behind furniture. Use this technique when you want to clear a room from the outside without committing yourself to entering the room.



CLEAR WITHOUT ENTRY: CORNER-FED DOOR

Half Sweep Instead of Full Sweep

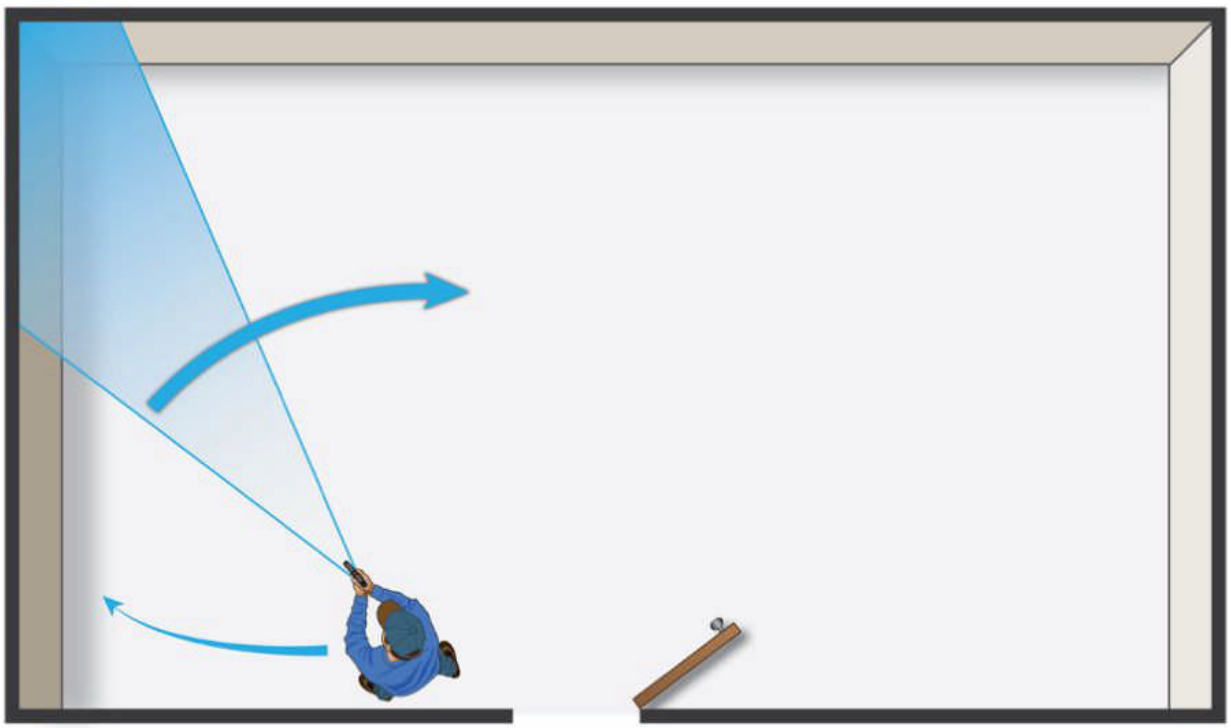
If you are clearing a room from the outside, the term “corner-fed” or “center-fed” usually refers to the room you are in as opposed to the room you are clearing. Since you are not entering the room, the internal configuration of the target room will have less effect on your movements. When clearing a corner-fed door you can only approach from one side. Start close to the wall while staying several meters away from the door. In most cases, the target room will also be corner-fed which means you will start out looking at a wall and have limited visibility into the room. As in the previous techniques, sweep out in a quick but smooth arc, keeping your distance from the doorway while you clear the interior of the room. The technique will be generally the same as for a center-fed door but you will only be able to conduct a half-sweep and will only need to clear one blind corner in the room.



DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

STEP 1 – Sweep Deeper Into the Room

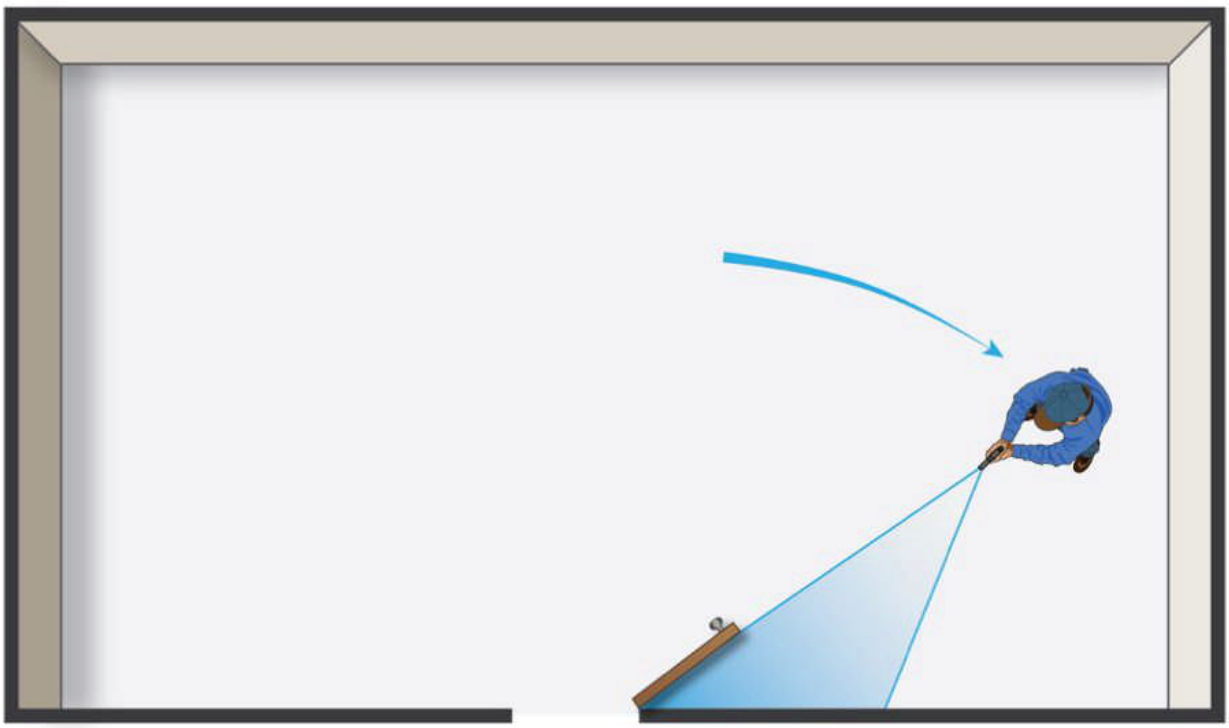
If you clear a room from the outside using the techniques just described, you will not be able to see behind furniture deeper in the room or clear behind an opening door. If you need to move across a room or clear behind furniture you should use a deep-entry technique. The technique begins in the same way as the clear without entry technique but after clearing the room and corners from the outside, move into the room and begin to sweep around to the left or right. You are moving laterally and pivoting to expose the hidden spaces behind furniture in the room.



DEEP ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

STEP 2 – Move All the Way Around and Check the Door

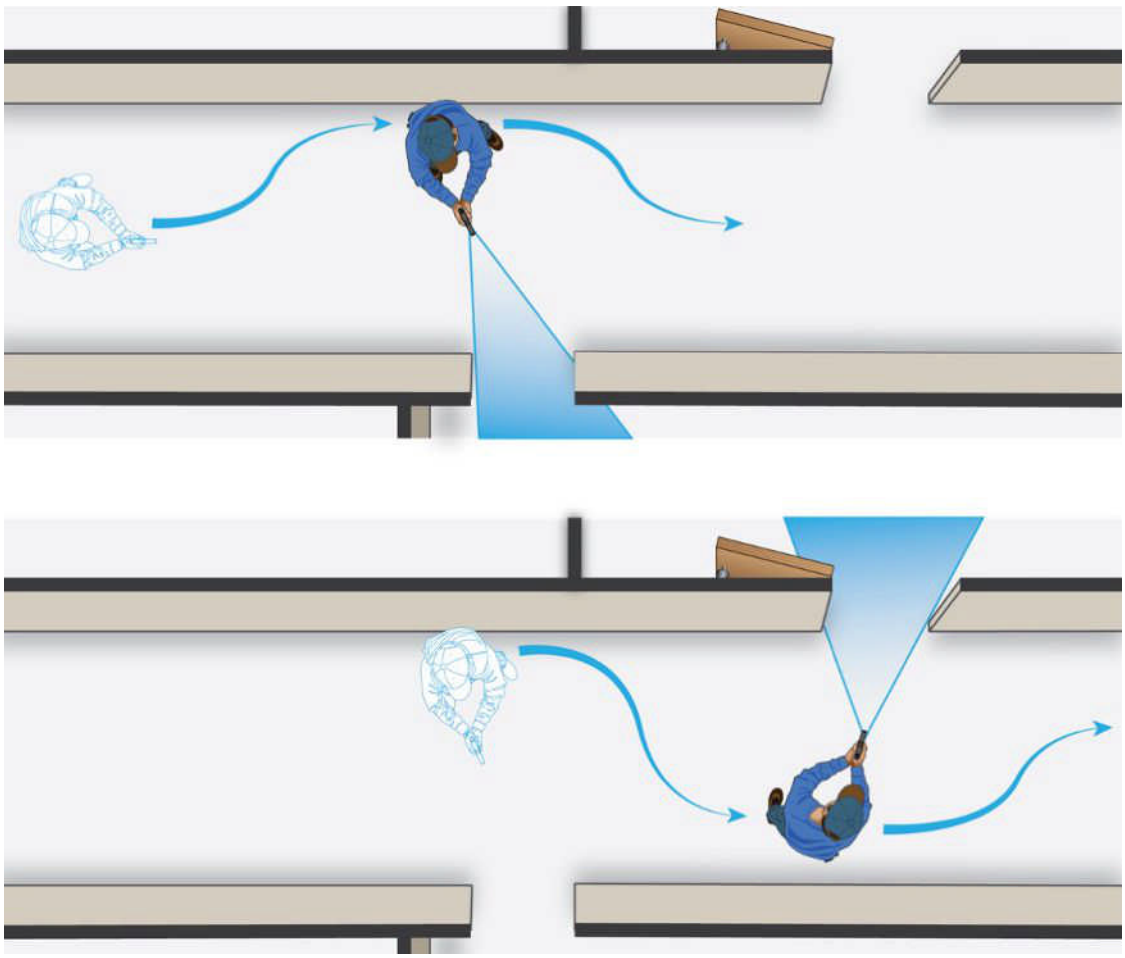
Continue to sweep all the way around, checking behind any furniture or obstacles in the room. If the door of the room opens inward, you should continue to sweep until you are in a position to check behind the door for possible intruders.



HALLWAYS

Moving Down Hallways

If you are moving down a hallway with no doors or openings to your immediate front, it is best to remain near the middle of the hallway as you move. This will give you the best angle to observe doorways or openings on each side of the hallway as early as possible, giving you time to react and plan your movements. If you stay very close to one wall or the other, it will be more difficult to see doors on that side of the hallway and determine if they are open or not. Therefore, it is generally best to stay near the middle of the hallway as you move. You might feel more exposed in the middle of the hallway but bullets traveling down the hallway will often hug the walls, making the space near the walls more dangerous. Once you identify an open door down the hall you can begin to move towards the opposite wall. This will give you the best field of vision into the room. Essentially, you will widen your path to conduct a hasty sweep of the door as you pass. By moving in this way you will be "weaving" down the hall, covering each door as it emerges.



HOME DEFENSE TACTICS
Two-Person Close Quarters Battle

In some home-defense scenarios, you may have the benefit of two people who are able to carry weapons and fight back against intruders. For example, you and your spouse might train together and plan to defend your home as a team. If this is the case, it is important to practice tactical movement with your spouse frequently and apply sound tactics based on your unique home layout.

There are several different approaches to defending your home with multiple guns. You may decide to have your spouse remain with your children and assume a defensive posture while you move out and try to engage the intruders at greater range and drive them away. If one of your children is old enough to take care of and guard his/her siblings, you and your spouse may both move out and fight further forward as a team. Whichever approach you choose, it is critically important to maintain good communication and carefully coordinate your tactical movements to ensure you do not accidentally shoot your own family member.

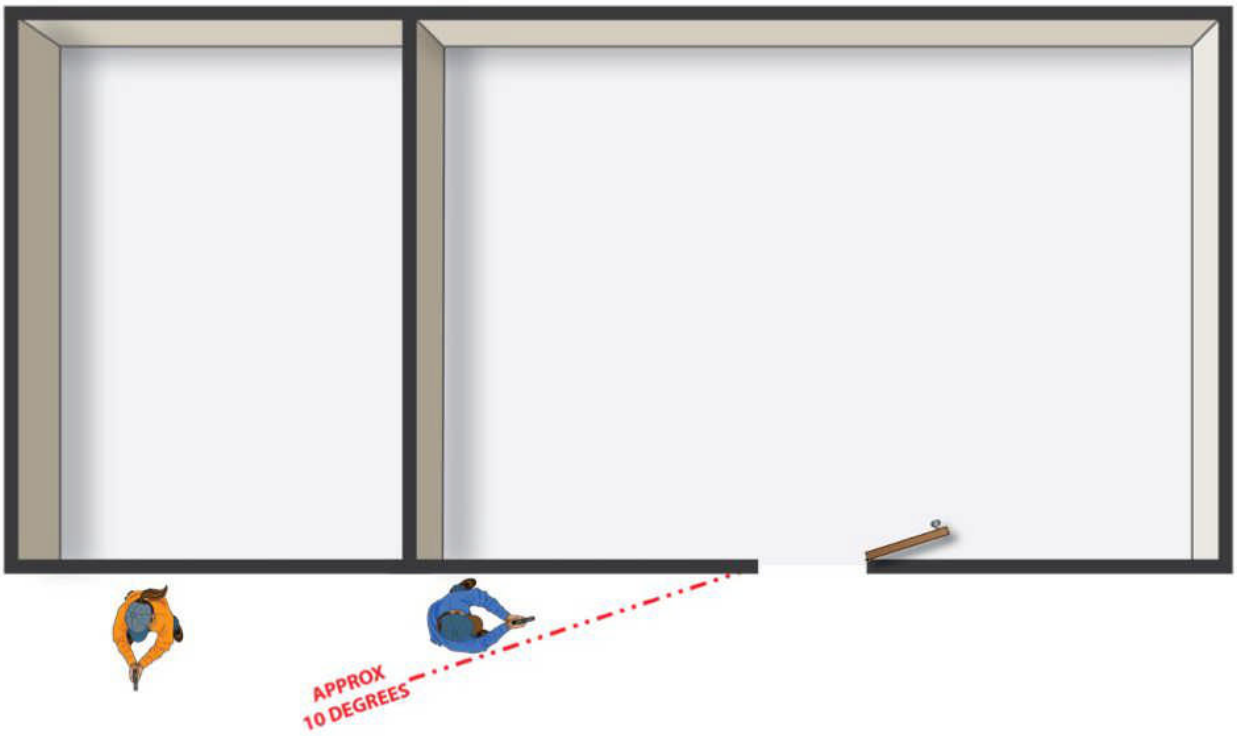
For example, imagine that you leave your spouse in a room with your children to provide close protection and then move forward to engage the intruders. If you get into a gun fight and come running back into the room with your spouse you might forget to call out "coming in, coming in" or some prearranged codeword. From your spouse's perspective, there was shooting outside and now someone is charging through the door. Without proper coordination, two well-intentioned home-defenders can end up shooting each other.

Like the previous section on singleton CQB, the following pages provide a very brief introduction to some of the main techniques and principles involved in two-person CQB. As with the previous section, some techniques have been simplified or abbreviated. For more detailed instructions on two-person CQB tactics see the Special Tactics book covering that topic.

TWO-PERSON DELAYED ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

LEAD PERSON STEP 1 – Approach the Door

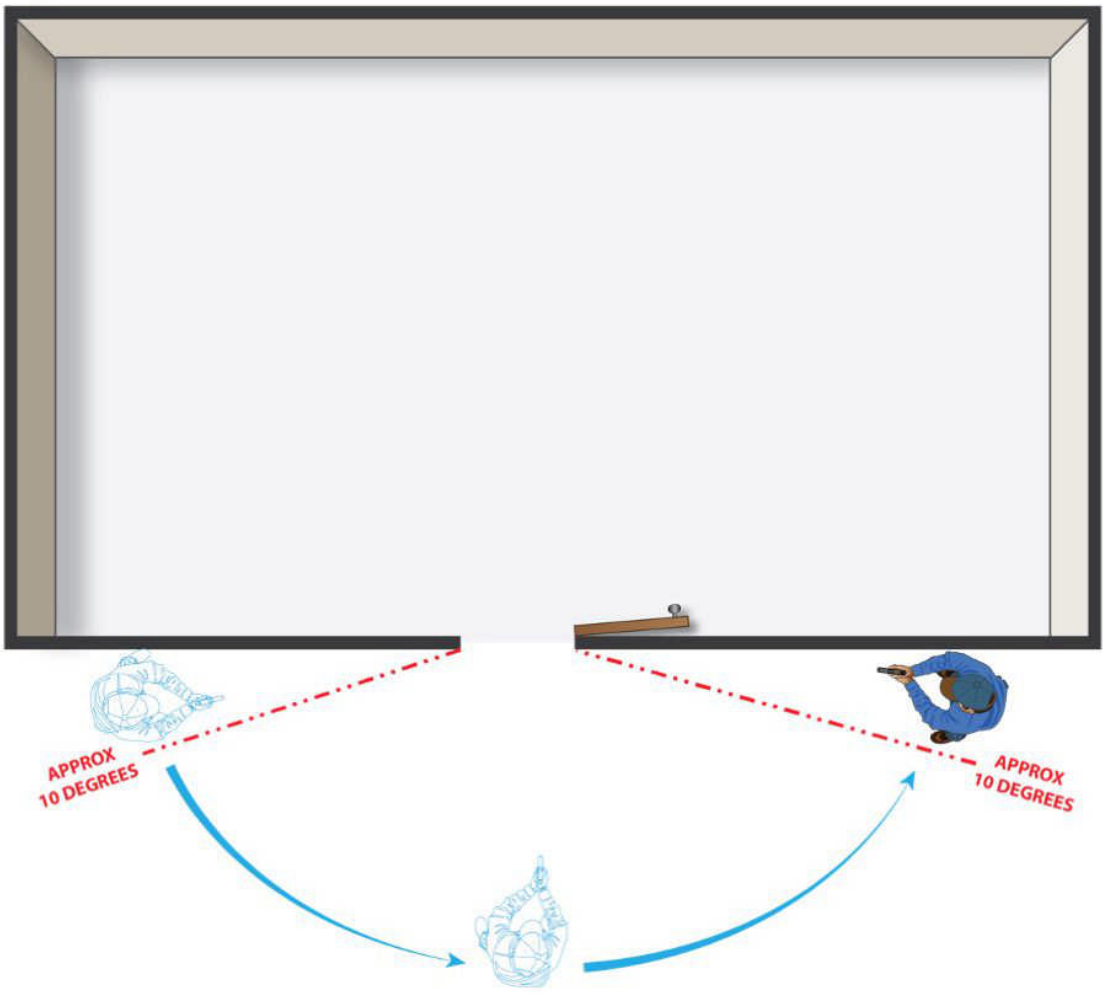
The lead person approaches the open door from the outside of the room, positioned close to the wall, several meters from the doorway. The lead person should avoid touching or bumping into the wall because doing so will make noise and might also increase the chances of getting shot, since bullets tend to travel along walls.



TWO-PERSON DELAYED ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

LEAD PERSON STEP 2 – Conduct Sweep Movement

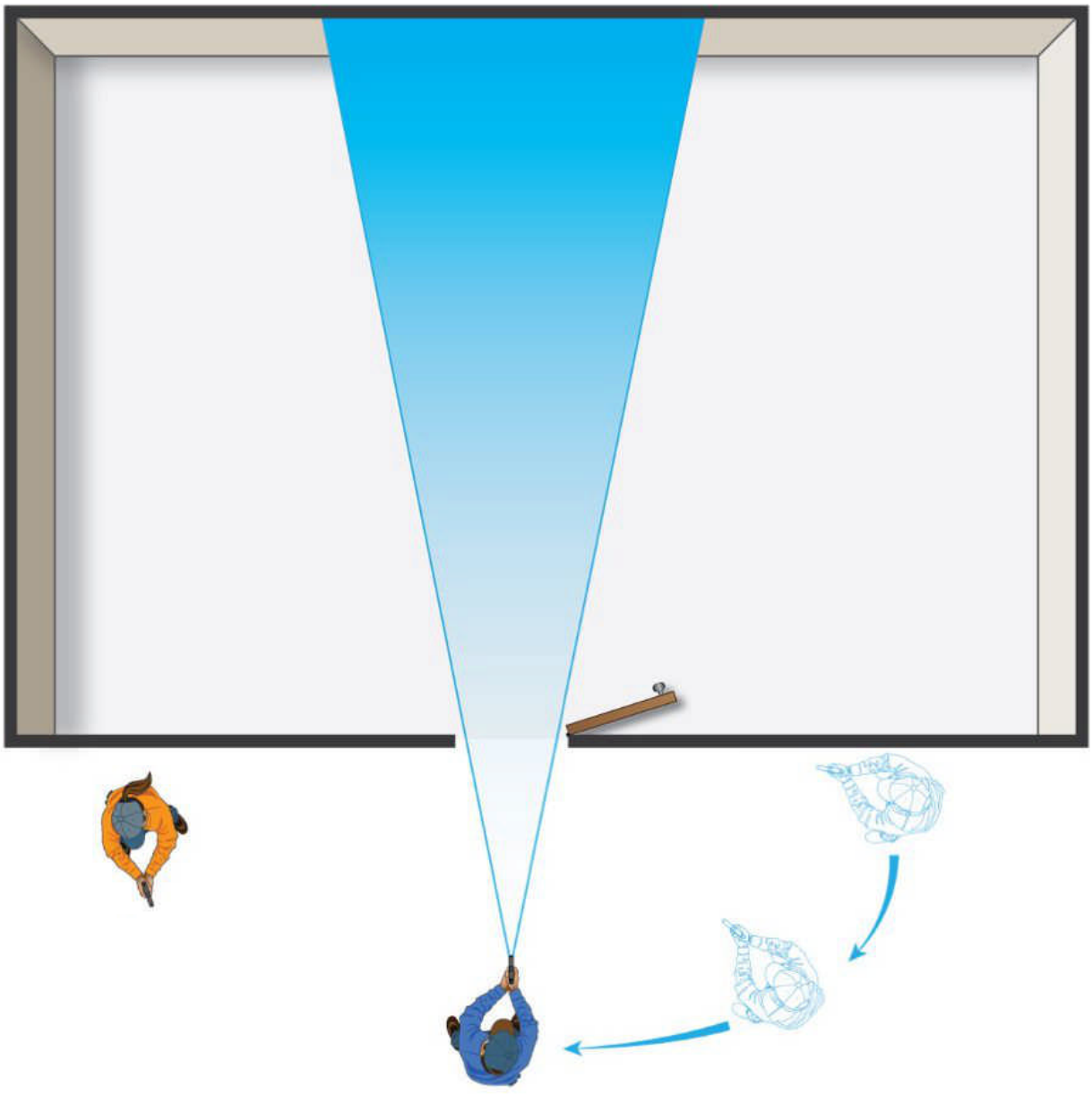
Next, the lead person will sweep out in a wide arc, keeping the weapon focused on the doorway and moving all the way across to a position close to the wall on the opposite side of the door. The purpose of the sweep is to visually clear the room as quickly as possible to identify any threats inside and possibly draw those threats out of the room. When executing the sweep, you should move in an arc as fast as possible while keeping the weapon relatively steady and taking care not to trip. It is sometimes necessary to sacrifice some weapon accuracy in order to minimize exposure and vulnerability through speed. Moving quickly along the arc makes it difficult for an adversary to engage effectively and will leave you exposed for only a fraction of a second. After completing the initial sweep, you can conduct additional sweeps if needed to check the room more carefully.



TWO-PERSON DELAYED ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

LEAD PERSON STEP 3 – Conduct Half-Sweep

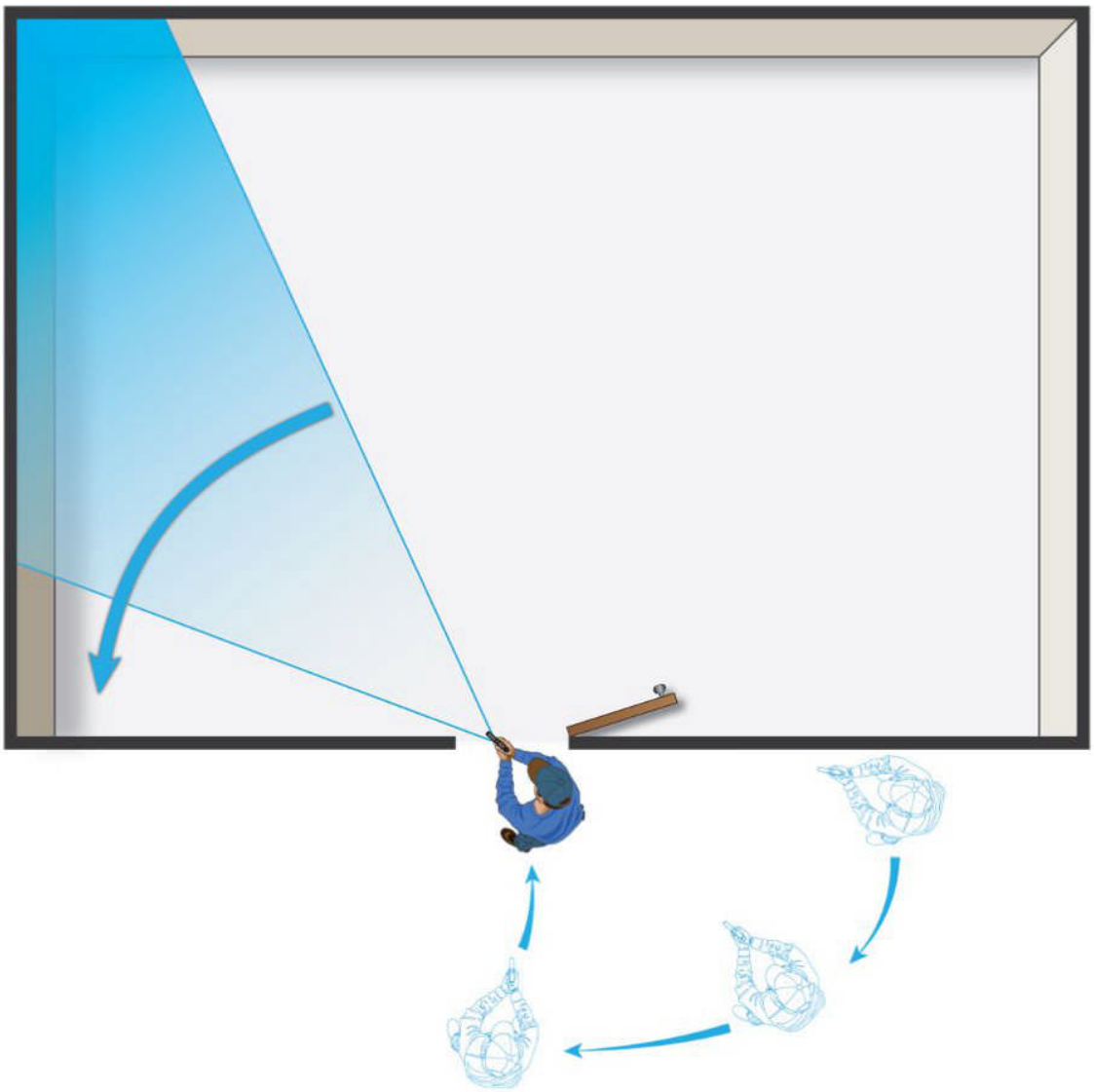
After conducting the initial sweep, the lead person should conduct a half-sweep back in the opposite direction until facing the door directly from a safe distance. At this point the lead person will prepare to move closer to the door and enter the room. The second person will also begin to prepare to move at this point since it is his/her job to follow directly behind the lead person into the room.



TWO-PERSON DELAYED ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

LEAD PERSON STEP 4 – Scan Outward

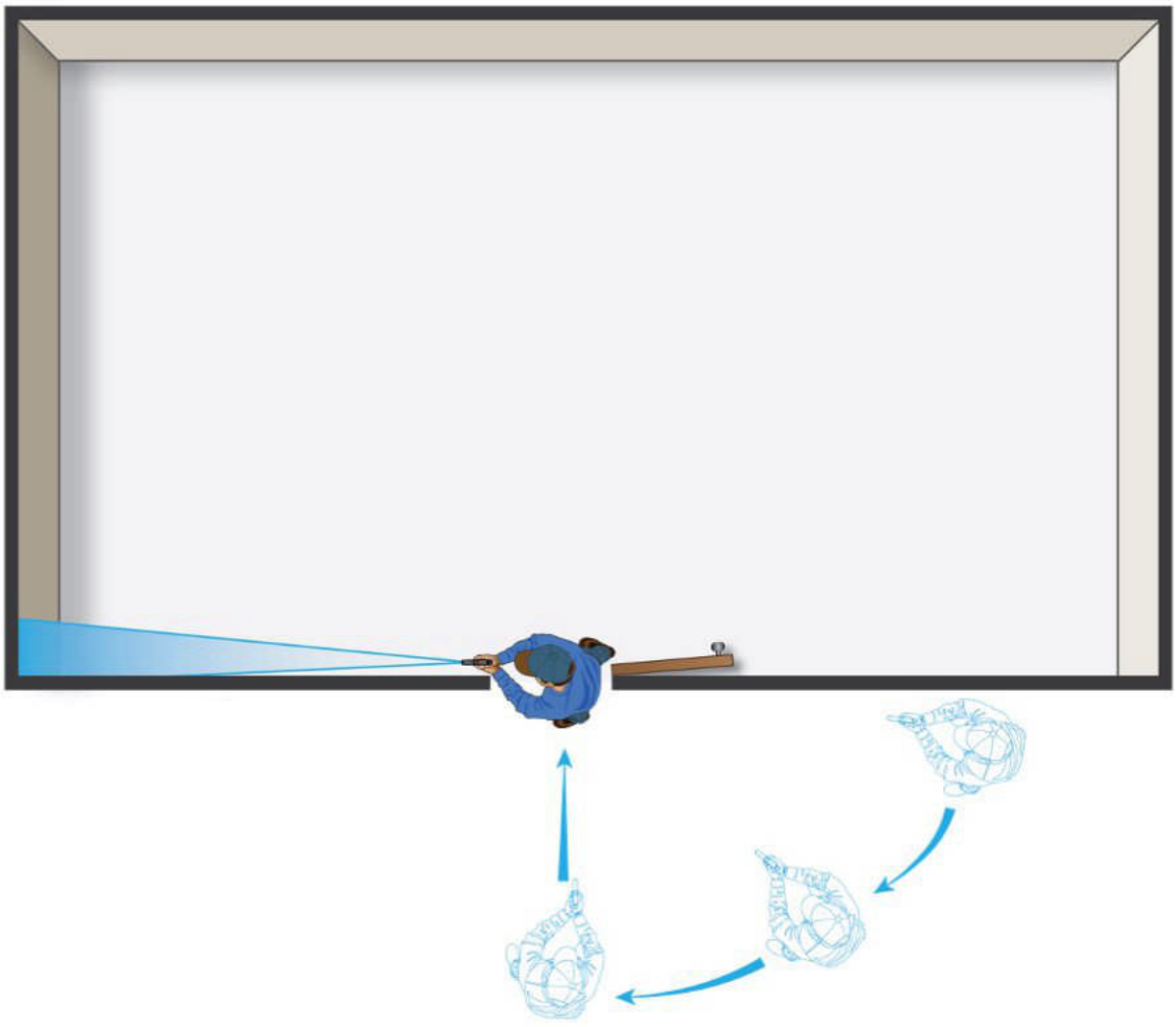
The lead person will scan from inside to out while moving into the room. Clearing the center of the room and scanning outward lets you use your approach angle to take advantage of cover and concealment provided by the wall while moving into the room. The lead person should not predetermine which direction to turn, but can instead move in either direction and the second person will go in the opposite direction. However, as a general rule, if the door opens inward the lead person should try to move in the opposite direction that the door opens.



TWO-PERSON DELAYED ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

LEAD PERSON STEP 5 – Clear the Corner

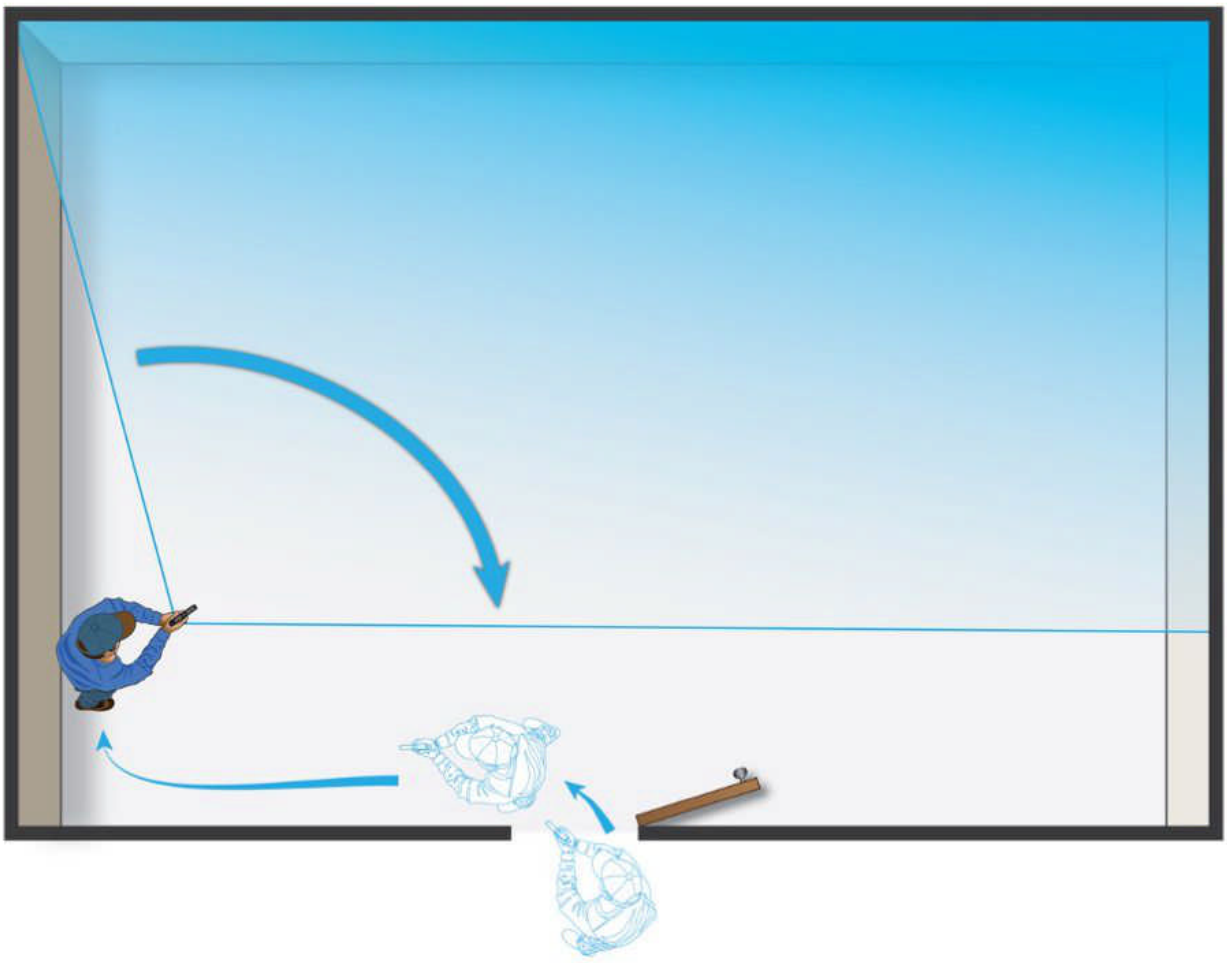
By the time the lead person comes through the doorway, he/she should already have finished the outward scan and be clearing the corner engaging any threats in the corner until they are neutralized.



TWO-PERSON DELAYED ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

LEAD PERSON STEP 6 – Scan and Dominate

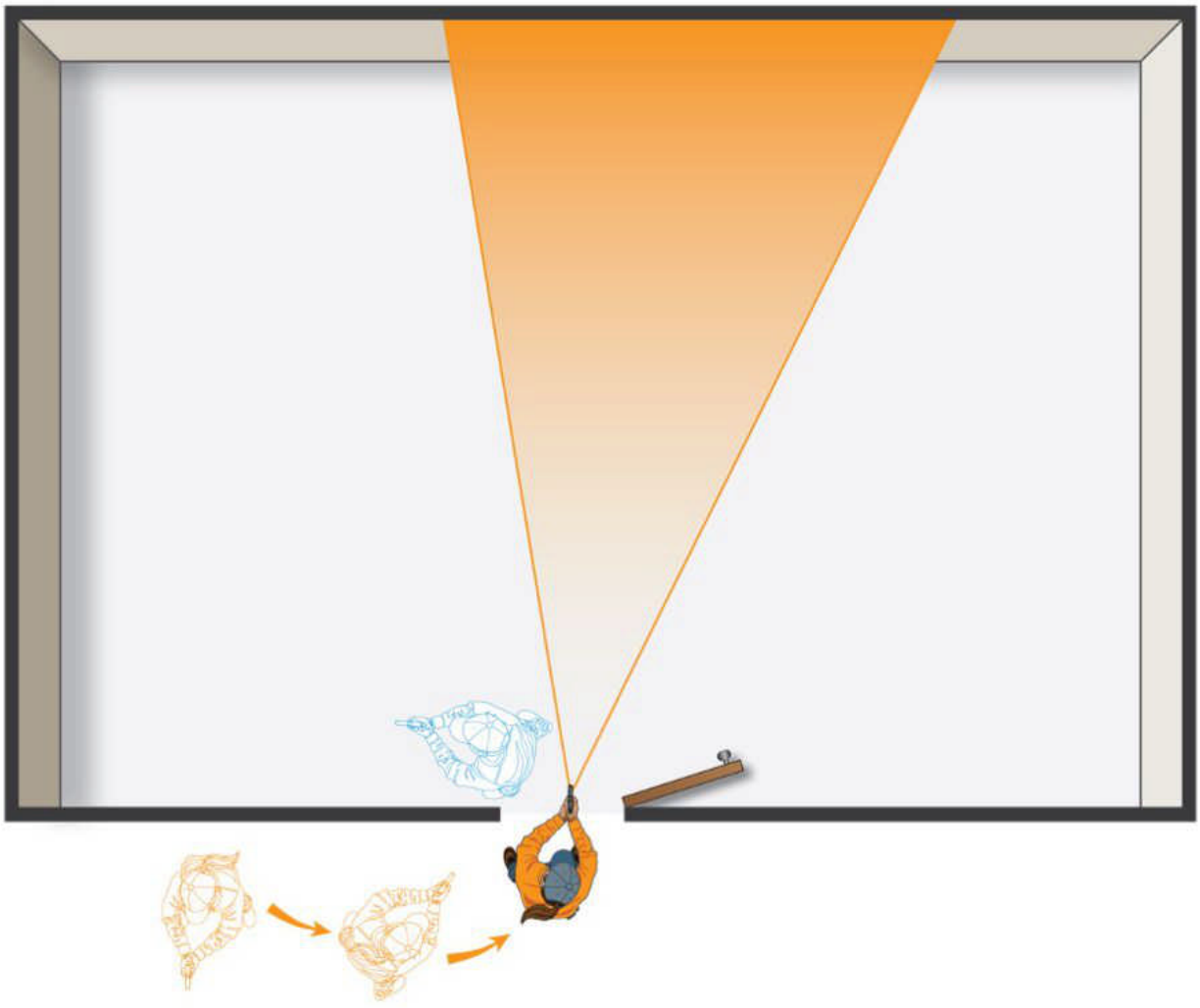
As you enter the room and clear the corner, begin to scan inward while moving to a domination point just forward of the room's near corner. Be careful not to scan too far and sweep your weapon across the second person as he/she enters the room.



TWO-PERSON DELAYED ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

SECOND PERSON STEP 1 – Clear the Doorway and Center

The second person will initially keep some distance from the door and allow the lead person time and space to conduct the sweep. If the lead person decides to enter the room, the second person will wait until the lead person completes the reverse half-sweep and is moving head-on towards the door. At this point, the second person will also begin to approach the door, timing his/her entry to cover the back of the lead person.



TWO-PERSON DELAYED ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

SECOND PERSON STEP 3 – Scan Outward

Upon reaching the door, the second person will turn in the opposite direction of the lead person scanning outward. It is important that the second person enter the room right behind the lead person to ensure the lead person's back is not exposed for more than a fraction of a second.

TWO-PERSON DELAYED ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

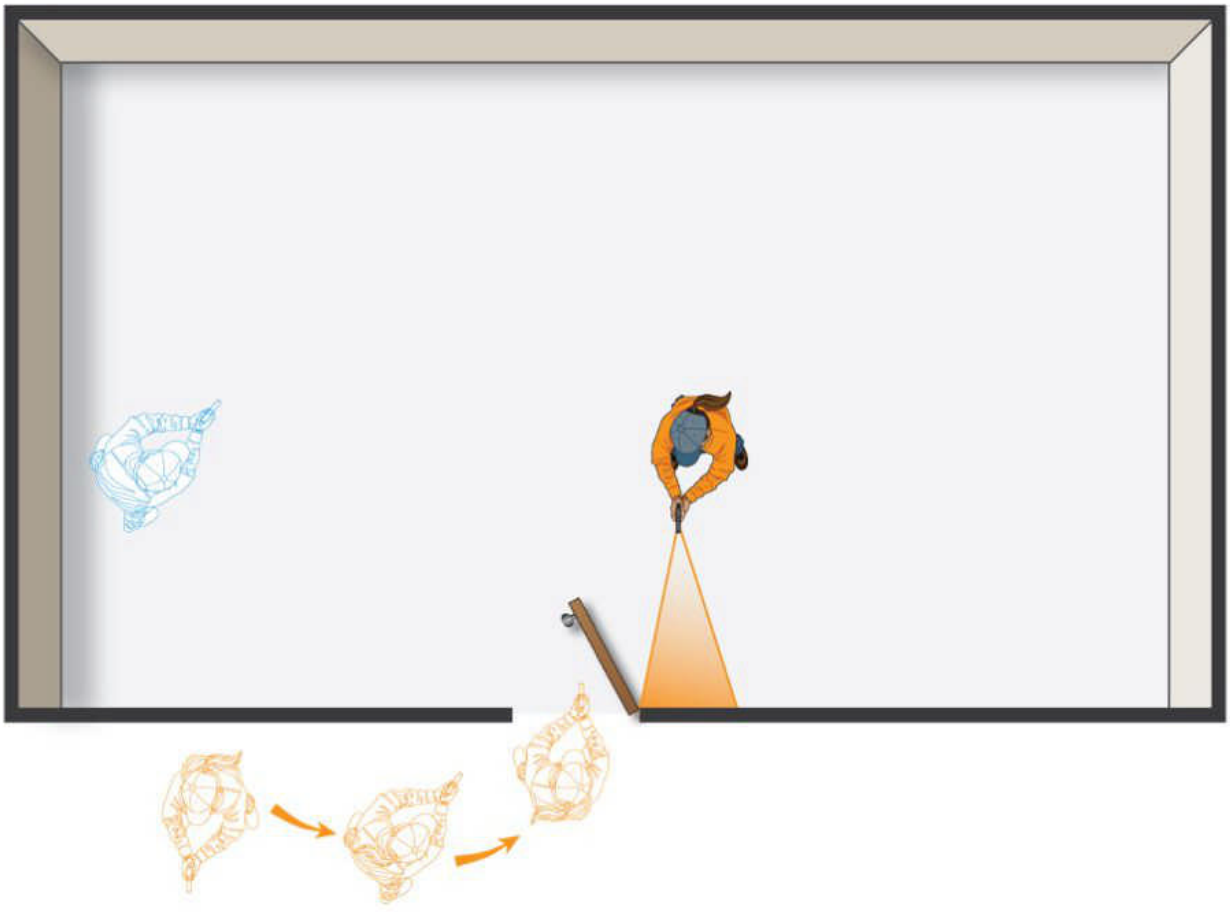
SECOND PERSON STEP 4 – Clear the Corner

After scanning outward, the second person will clear the corner and then scan back inward to double-check that the room is clear. If the door opens outward, there will be no area to clear behind the door and the second person can continue moving to a domination point along the room's near wall. If the door opens inward, someone could be hiding behind it. It is therefore preferable for the second person to stay braced against the door to control it while conducting the scan.

TWO-PERSON DELAYED ENTRY: CENTER-FED DOOR

SECOND PERSON STEP 4 – Check Behind the Door

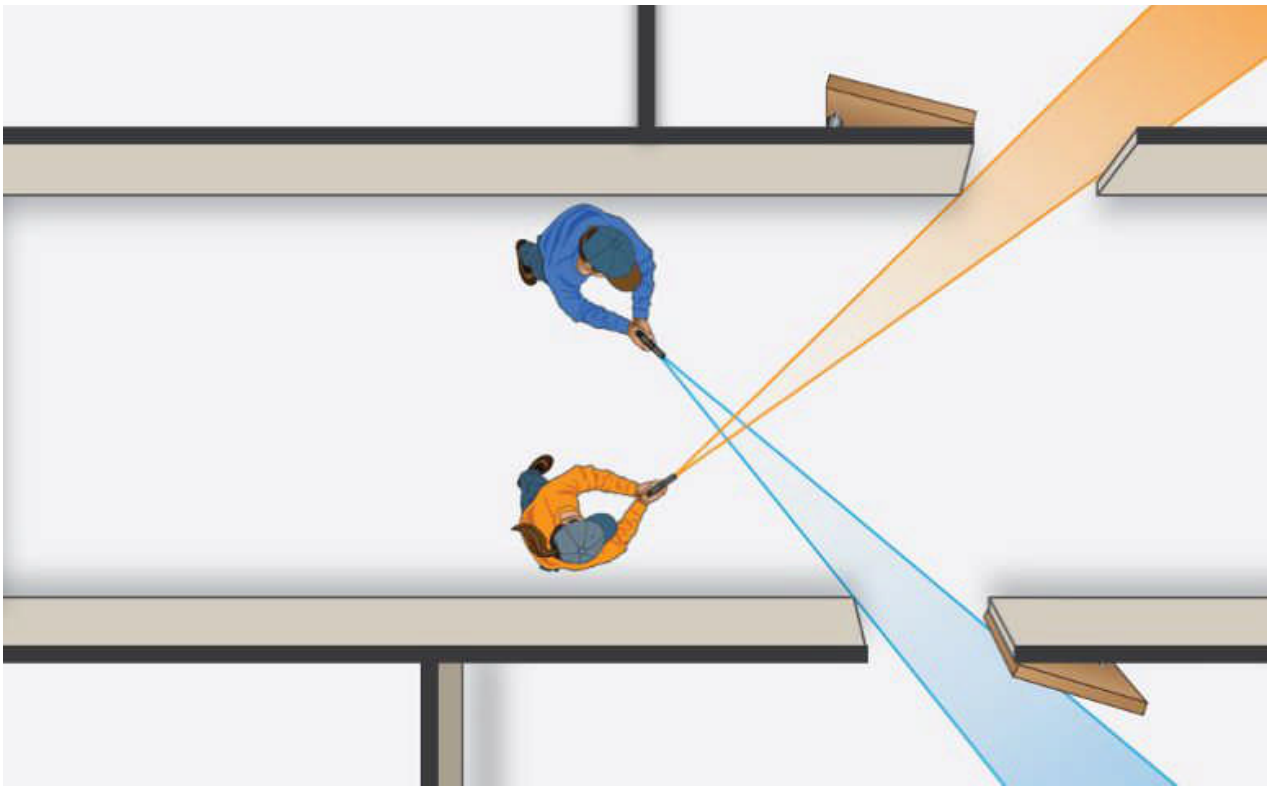
Once both you and your partner have completed your scans, as the second person, you will still be controlling the door. If you detect an adversary or any kind of resistance behind the door, you may have to step back and clear behind the door immediately. Otherwise, finish scanning the room first, then turn around and check behind the door. It is critical that you step back when checking behind the door to ensure that an adversary is not close enough to jump out and grab your weapon.



TWO-PERSON HALLWAY MOVEMENT

Cross Coverage

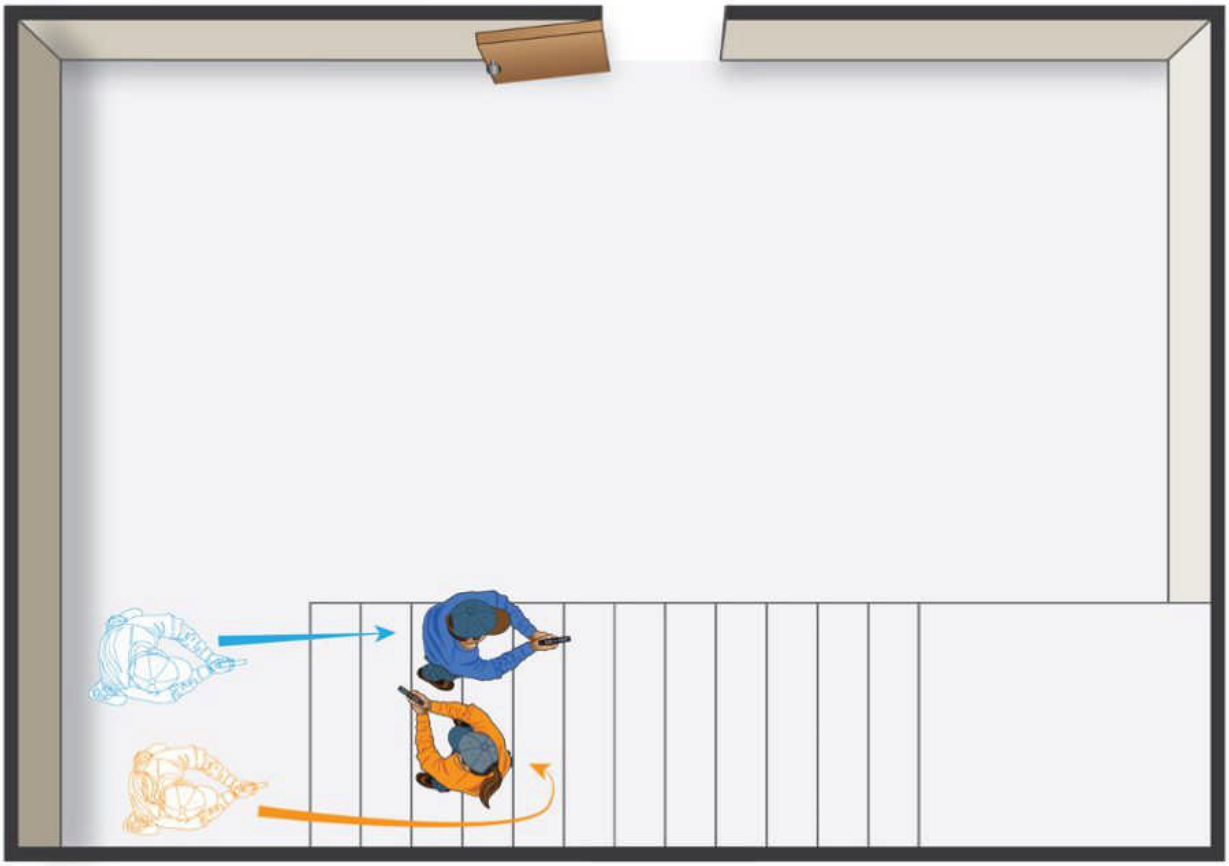
When you and your partner are moving down a hallway, position yourselves directly across from each other on each side of the hallway. This allows for cross coverage, which means that the person on the right will cover to the left and the person on the left will cover to the right. This is because you have a better angle of observation through doors and openings across the hall than you do on the same side of the hall. In a two- person element, at least one person should periodically look over the shoulder to check the rear.



TWO-PERSON OPEN STAIRWELL

STEP 1 – Check the Upper Floor

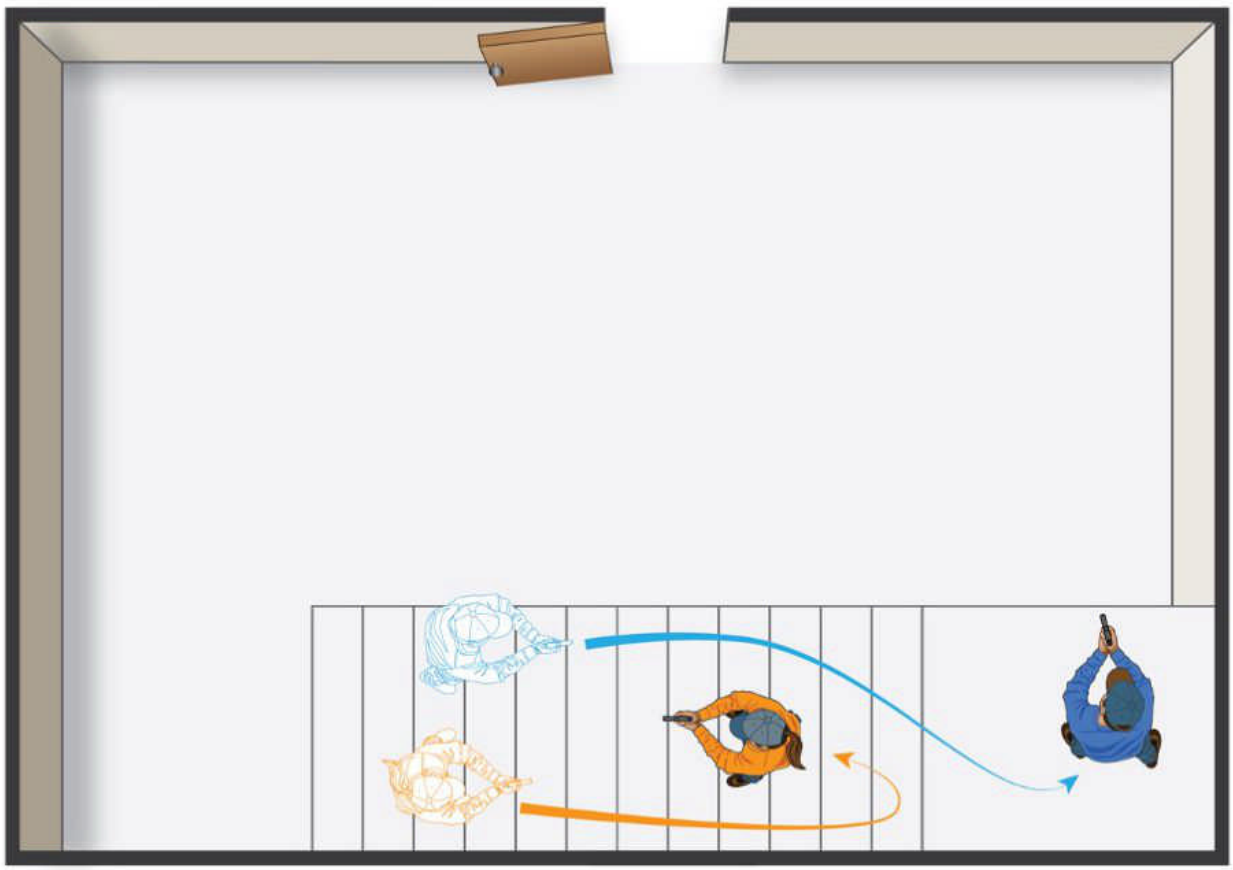
Open stairwells that open directly into a room or hallway are common in residential architecture. Open stairwells are particularly dangerous because adversaries have a perfect vantage point from the upper floor to shoot you as you move up the stairs. Therefore, you should move quickly to a vantage point where you can ensure the upper floor is secure before moving too far up the stairs. Once reaching the stairwell, the lead person will cover forward up the stairs. The second person will turn 180-degrees (or as far as necessary) and look up to check the upper floor.



TWO-PERSON OPEN STAIRWELL

STEP 2 – Move Up the Stairs

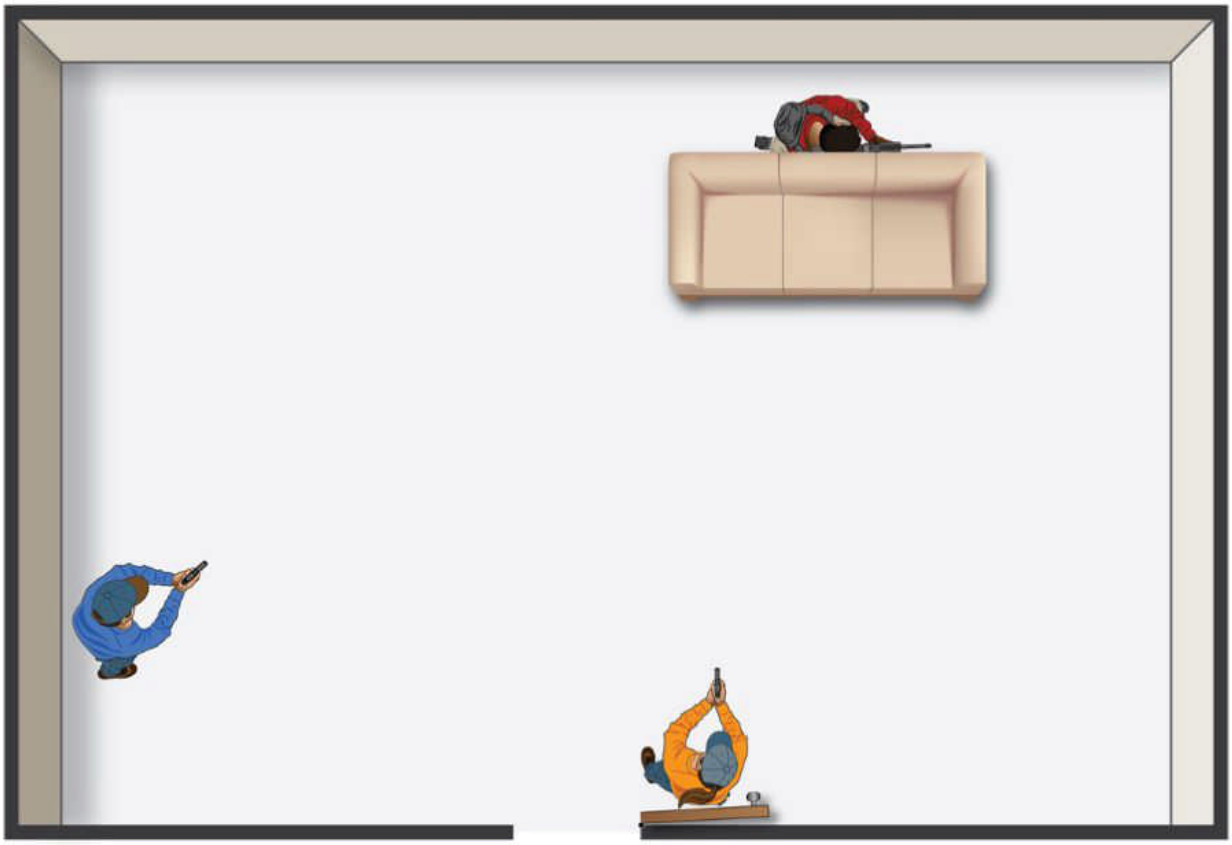
If the upper floor appears secure, both persons can move farther up the stairs. It is important that the second person not walk backwards since doing so can be hazardous. Instead, the second person should walk forwards, moving as quickly as possible, but pause if necessary to turn 180-degrees and recheck the upper floor behind them. It is necessary to recheck to ensure an adversary is not crouching or lying in wait. The second person can pause when needed to ensure the area is clear. At a certain point, when the second person has moved up far enough to ensure there are no adversaries hiding on the upper floor, both persons can move past the stairwell.



TWO-PERSON OBSTACLE CLEARING

STEP 1 – Dominate the Room

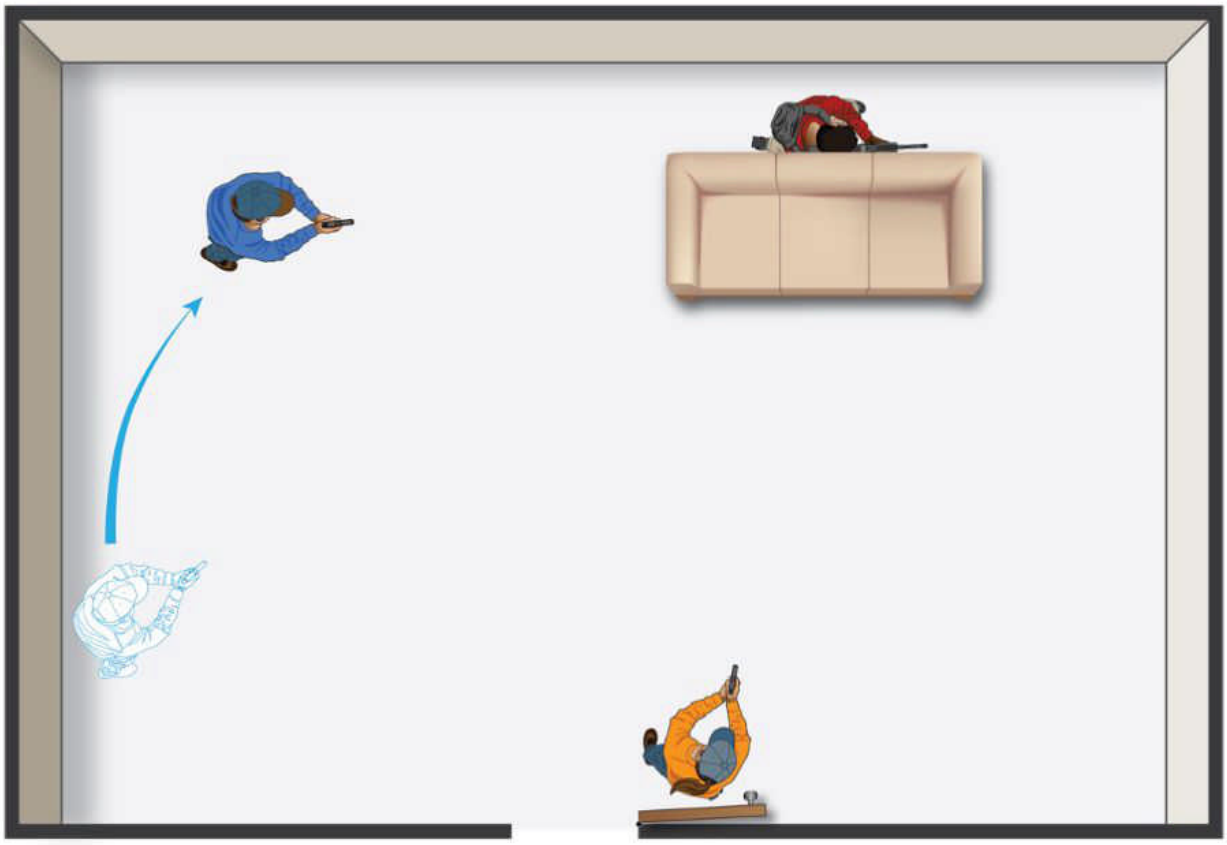
In some cases, you will dominate a room but there will still be large obstacles or pieces of furniture deep in the room where an adversary might be hiding. In these cases, you will first dominate the room as you usually would, watching carefully in case adversaries pop out from behind furniture deep in the room.



TWO-PERSON OBSTACLE CLEARING

STEP 2 – Call Out Intention to Check the Obstacle

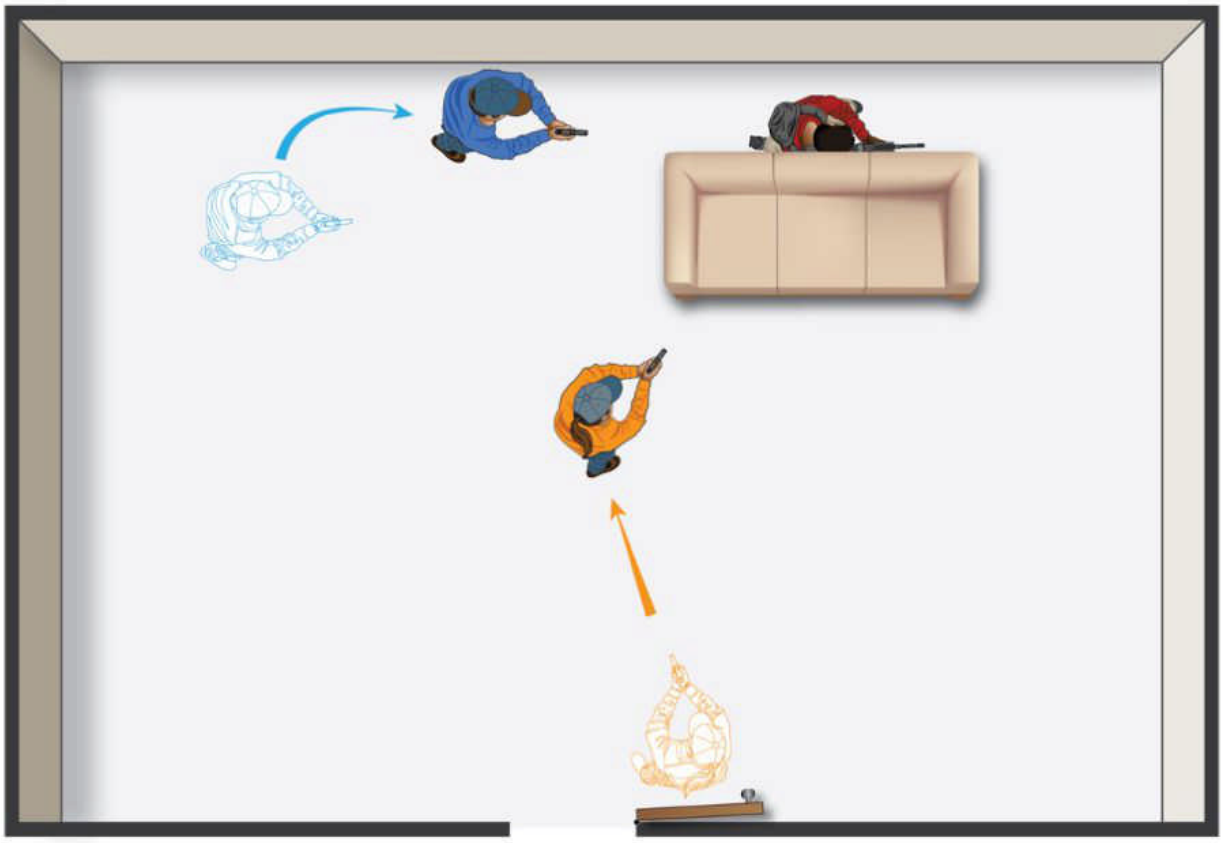
At this point, one person will identify the obstacle and prepare to move to clear behind it. That person will call out to notify his/her partner before moving deep into the room. The clearing individual will the begin to move in an arc to clear behind the obstacle or furniture.



TWO-PERSON OBSTACLE CLEARING

STEP 3 – Second Person Follows in Support

Once the lead person starts moving, the second person should move with the lead person to provide support if needed. It is always better to clear an obstacle or danger area with two people. In some cases it is effective to establish a "tactical L" to clear the obstacle from two angles. In other cases, like a large cabinet or closet, one person might have to open the door while the other person covers the opening. When clearing an obstacle, it is generally best to try to keep as much separation as possible between you and your partner so you will not both get hit by a single burst. Once the danger area is clear, the clearing individual will call out "clear" to notify the other that it is safe to proceed.



HOME DEFENSE TACTICS
Unarmed Defense

In order to be truly prepared to defend yourself in an emergency, you must know what to do when you lose your firearm, it stops working or are unable to get to it for some reason. In this situation you must employ improvised weapons and empty-hand defensive tactics. Empty hand fighting, like other subjects in this book is a very deep topic that is difficult to cover adequately in a short space. The goal of this section is only to provide you with a bare minimum of knowledge and capability to increase your chances of survival. We encourage you to develop your empty-hand fighting capabilities further if you have the time and resources.

There is a reason why the following section only offers a single empty hand technique. People who do not have time to devote themselves to studying the martial arts and practicing every day are often better off knowing a single technique very well than they are knowing many techniques. For a fighting technique to be effective, you must be able to execute it reflexively, faster than the speed of thought. If an attacker comes at you in a real-world fight it is likely to be an extremely fast and brutal encounter, much different from what most people are used to when they practice fighting in a controlled environment. In order to respond to such an attack effectively, you must act before you realize what you did. If self-defense movements are not this deeply engrained in your muscle-memory, you will probably not be able to execute them fast enough to matter in a real fight.

Learning to execute a technique reflexively requires many hundreds or thousands of repetitions over multiple sleep cycles since your brain's motor cortex encodes physical movements while you sleep. Therefore, even learning a single technique well enough for it to be effective takes significant time and dedication. You will know you can execute an attack reflexively when you are able to perform it immediately and automatically in a response to a surprise attack with no prior warning. This does not mean reacting to a surprise attack in the dojo or training hall, but rather when you are walking downstairs to make your morning coffee or walking over to the photocopy machine at the office. Even experienced martial artists often find themselves unable to respond with true, reflexive speed because they have not perfected any one technique to level of reflexive mastery.

Ideally, if you are able to devote great time and dedication to empty hand fighting, you can master multiple techniques and learn to employ them rapidly in effective combinations against a skilled opponent. The next best alternative is to pick one, simple but effective technique and practice it until it becomes second-nature. This second alternative is the main objective of the following section. Mastering a single technique significantly increases your chances of survival in a deadly hand-to-hand encounter. From there you can go on to master additional techniques if you have the time and resources to further improve your capabilities.

The Brachial Strike Technique

While there is much disagreement about which empty hand techniques are the best or striking targets are the best, it is difficult to deny the effectiveness of the brachial strike. The brachial strike targets the brachial plexus nerve bundle located on the side of the neck, sending a signal to the brain that essentially "shuts the lights off" and renders the opponent unconscious. If you search for "brachial strike" or "brachial stun" on the internet you should be able to find numerous videos of the technique being employed in both training and real-world environments. The videos show how even a gentle strike to the side of the neck can instantly knock out a big, strong opponent.

While there are many other empty hand techniques that you could learn, there are a number of reasons why the brachial strike is a good choice, especially if you are going to focus on only one technique. First, the side of the neck is a relatively exposed target that is easy to see and hit even in the dark. Second, the brachial plexus is a vulnerable spot on all human beings. Unlike other targets that can be made resistant to strike through physical toughness, pain tolerance or body hardening, there is no real way to toughen up your brachial plexus. Finally, the brachial plexus can be used in either lethal or non-lethal encounters. While the strike is extremely effective, it will most likely not kill or maim your opponent like a powerful strike to the throat or back of the neck. This allows you to use the brachial strike in many situations. If you are in a lethal force encounter, you can always follow-up the brachial strike with other blows once the opponent is unconscious.

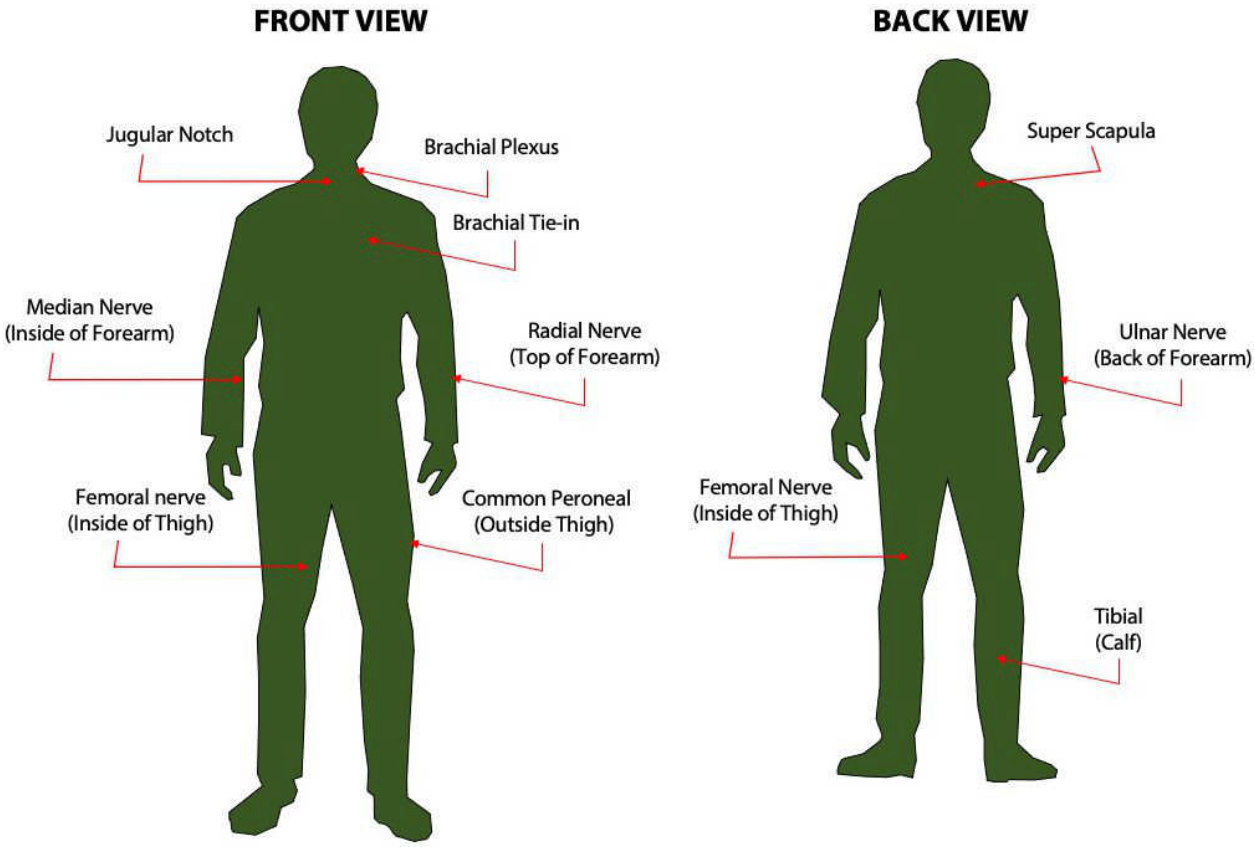
When delivering the brachial strike we recommend using the forearm since it is the one of the most simple strikes for a beginning to deliver and reduces the chances that you will hurt or break your hand. If you have more experience in the martial arts you may choose to deliver the strike with a knife hand or fist. It can be even more effective to deliver the strike with an improvised weapon such as a wooden pole or baseball bat.

We will explain how to actually conduct the brachial strike later in this section. First, it is useful to cover two other topics that could prove useful in self-defense scenario. The first topic is critical targets on the human body. While this chapter focuses on the brachial plexus, it is important to know the other vital targets and practice striking them with both improvised weapons and the empty hand. The next important topic covered is improvised weapons. It is not wise to enter a fight with only your hands when you could gain a marked advantage by employing an improvised weapon.

DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: TARGETS ON THE HUMAN BODY

Targets for Non-Lethal Countermeasures

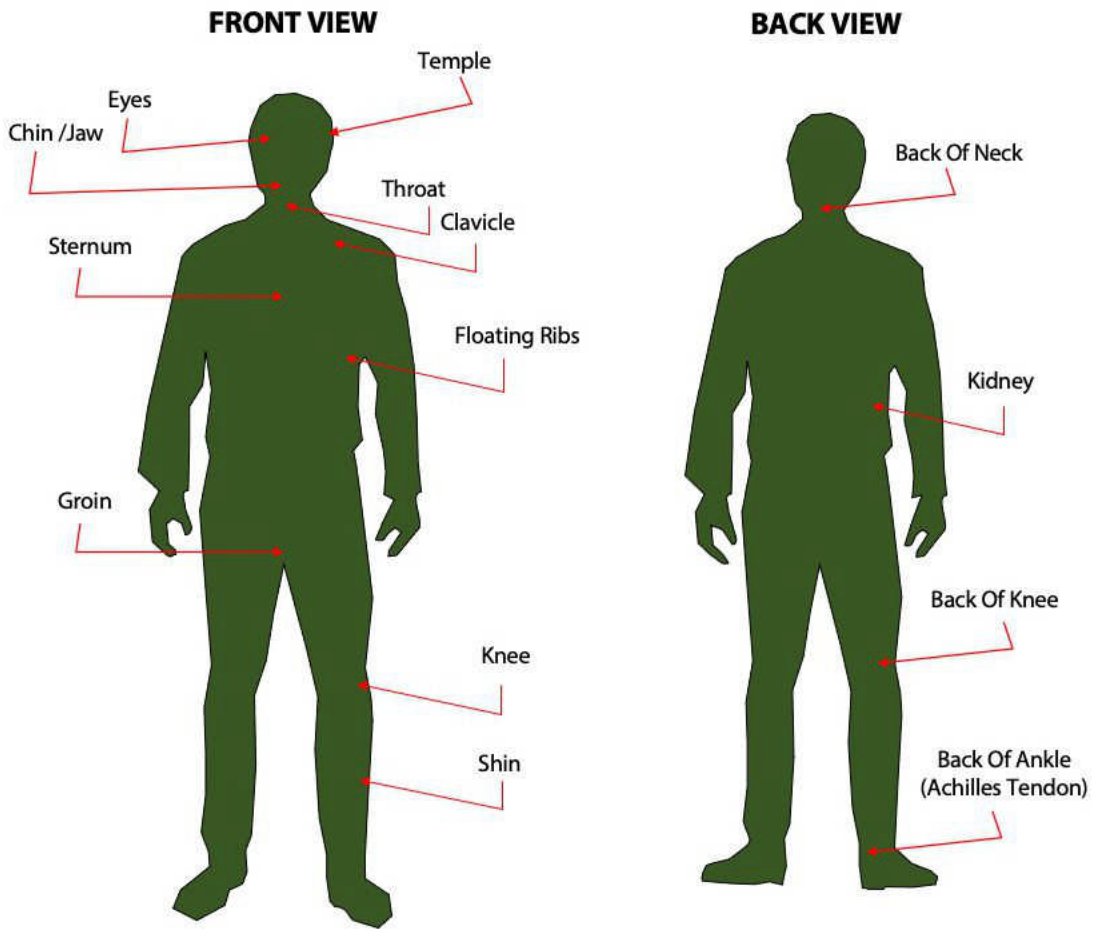
There are many targets, pressure points and vital areas on the human body that relate to empty-hand fighting and defensive tactics. However, the selection of targets below could be considered some of the best targets for home defense since they are easy to identify and have a powerful effect on the adversary even if you do not strike the target precisely in the right place. The targets below are particularly useful in a non-lethal force scenario where you want to control or disable an attacker without lethal force. You can strike these targets in many different ways, primarily using the hands and feet. However, be careful to use proper technique when delivering any strike to avoid accidentally injuring yourself. If you injure your hands that might make you unable to operate your firearm which could put you at additional risk. Remember that effectiveness in empty-hand combat requires practice and conditioning.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: TARGETS ON THE HUMAN BODY

Targets for Lethal Countermeasures

The targets below can be considered lethal-force targets. This does not mean that striking someone in these areas will necessarily kill them, but rather that a powerful, effective strike to these areas can cause serious injury or death. You should be careful when striking some of these targets if you are not in a lethal-force encounter and avoid other targets like the eyes, neck, and throat altogether. However, if faced with a lethal-force situation, you should go directly for any target that presents itself as quickly as possible to eliminate the threat.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: IMPROVISED WEAPONS

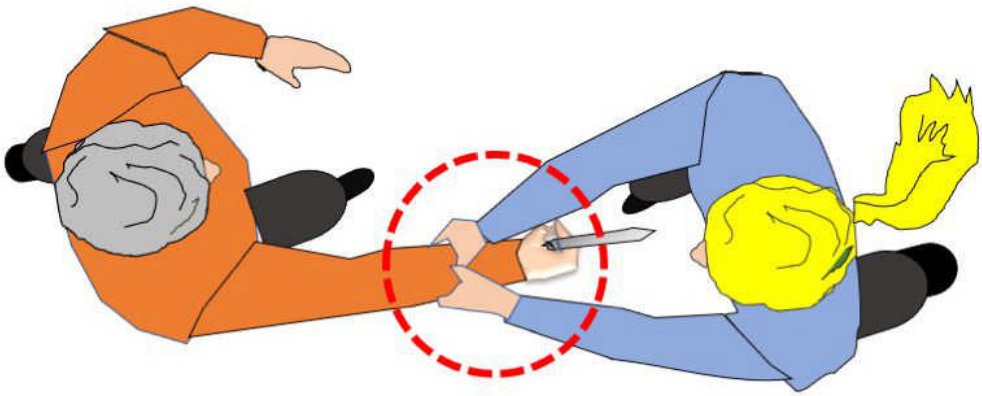
Examples of Different Types of Weapons

You should always attempt to augment your defensive capabilities with improvised weapons. The illustration below offers a few examples of weapons that might prove useful. Ranged weapons, like long poles, shovels, rakes, or broomsticks can be useful to keep an attacker at a distance and allow you to strike him while he is too far away to hit you. Clubbing, whipping and edged weapons can allow you to do more damage with a strike than you could with your bare hands and/or make it more difficult for an opponent to predict or block your strike. While defensive sprays like OC spray are effective, commercially available hornet/wasp spray has a longer range and can prove devastating when striking an attacker in the eyes/face. If you have access to hot liquid like a pot of coffee on the burner, throwing it in the attacker's face can end a fight quickly. Just be careful not to burn yourself. Even if a weapon does not harm or disable an intruder, it might provide a distraction or buy you time to escape or deliver another strike. Throwing a handful of loose change or gravel into an intruder's face is an example of this. If you are a good thrower, you might be able to harm the intruder or keep him at bay by throwing heavier objects like rocks, paperweights, or bottles. Finally, some larger objects like a chair can be great for blocking an intruder's strikes or keeping them from grabbing you. These are just a few examples of improvised weapons you might be able to use in a defensive combat scenario. Note the terms used to describe the various weapons below are descriptive and not the technical or formal labels for such weapons.

DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: BRACHIAL STRIKE

STEP 1 – Secure the Attacker's Arm/Weapon

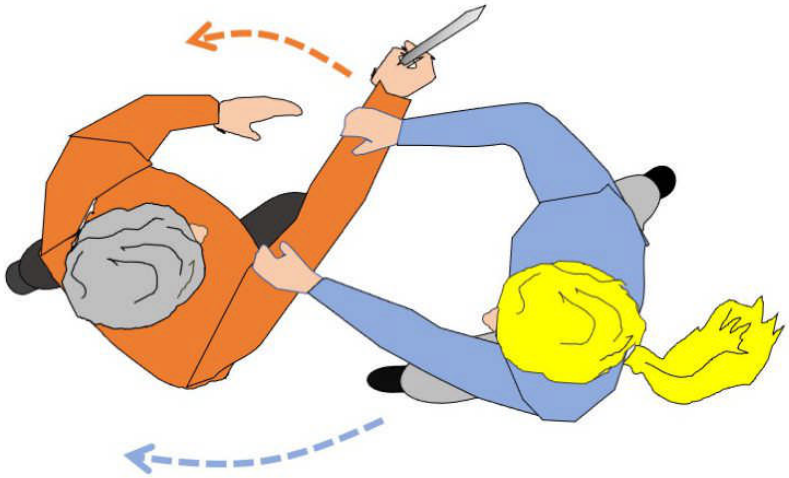
The following example of the brachial strike technique uses a knife defense scenario. However, the knife is included for explanation purposes only and the focus of the instruction is on the striking technique itself. In addition to the knife-defense example below, the brachial strike can be performed in almost any situation with either the arm or an improvised weapon. More experienced martial artists may choose to use a knife hand or fist. The important thing is to strike the target on the side of the opponent's neck as quickly as possible. You should strike as hard as you can but even a relatively gentle blow to the side of the neck will likely knock out or stun the opponent for at least 15-seconds. The first step of the technique is to secure the opponent's weapon or arm if possible. In the example below, you grab the opponent's wrist with both hands. In other situations, if the opponent grabs your collar, or strikes at you, attempt to grab or control the attacker's hand or arm as you step in for your attack.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: BRACHIAL STRIKE

STEP 2 – Move Off the Line of Attack and Step In

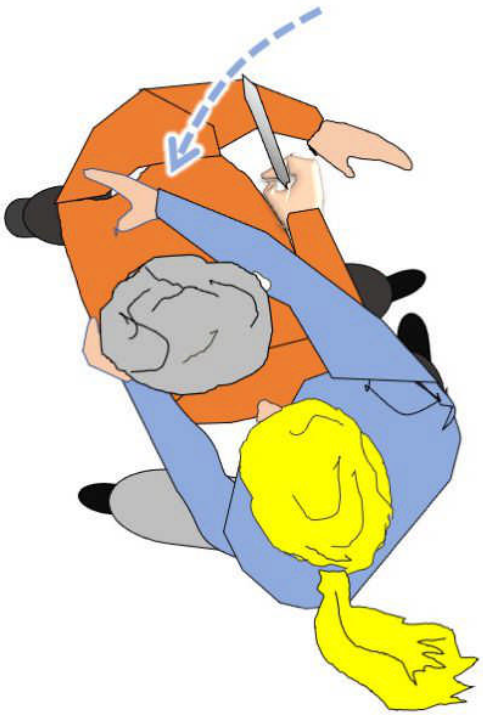
While you are securing the attackers weapon/arm, you should also be stepping to the left or right to get off of the opponent's line of attack. If you stay in the opponent's line of attack he/she will be able to continue to strike, kick or grab you. You are essentially trying to execute a "flanking maneuver" on your opponent by moving to the side where it is more difficult for the opponent to hurt you. To aid in this process, if possible, you should also redirect the opponent away as you move to your flank position. If the opponent is holding a weapon like in the example below, continue to control the weapon hand and redirect the weapon away in a safe direction.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: BRACHIAL STRIKE

STEP 3 – Deliver the Brachial Strike

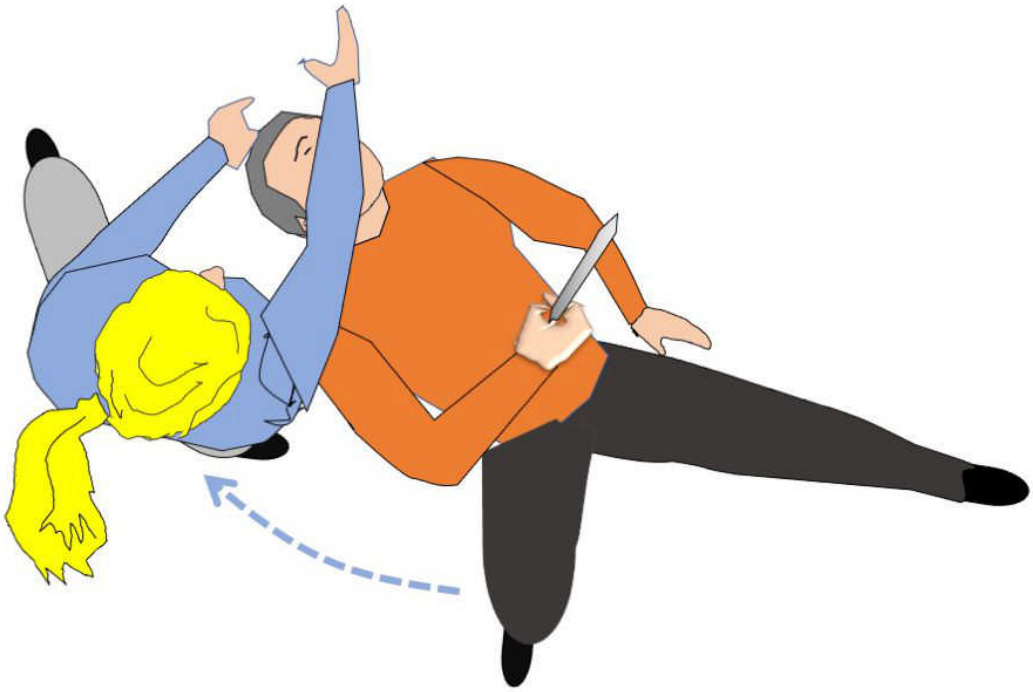
As you step in and past the opponent to a position on the opponent's side/flank. Quickly swing the forearm up and strike the opponent in the side of the neck. You should strike the opponent with the opposite arm to whichever direction you stepped off the line of the attack. For example, in the image below, the woman conducting the strike steps off the attacker' line of attack to the left and therefore delivers the brachial strike with the right arm. When delivering the strike, rotate the hips as when swinging a baseball bat to generate as much force as possible. Also, avoid swinging the arm out in a wide arc since the attacker might be able to see or block it. Instead, bring the arm directly to the target. If the attacker has a weapon as in the example below you may have to pass the weapon and let go of the weapon hand while you deliver your strike. However, if you are positioned to the side or behind the opponent the risk of getting cut will be reduced. If for any reason the opponent blocks your strike, you should train to quickly transition to a powerful forearm strike to the groin which will be exposed of the attacker is defending the neck.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: BRACHIAL STRIKE

STEP 4 – Take Down the Opponent

The brachial strike should knock out the opponent causing him/her to collapse. However, in case the opponent is still conscious you should follow through with the strike, applying pressure to the opponent's neck and face in a lateral and then downward arc, much like you would slam a basketball into the ground. If the opponent continues to resist or maintain balance, you are in a good position (to the side or rear of the opponent) to deliver debilitating strikes to the opponent's eyes, neck, throat, or face. Once you have stunned or neutralized the opponent, break contact as quickly as possible to improve your advantage by moving to a safer position and/or securing a firearm or improvised weapon.



HOME DEFENSE TACTICS
Security Dogs

Owning one or more dogs is one of the most effective home security measures you can take for a number of reasons. First, as discussed earlier, dogs are one of the best deterrent measures that can discourage a criminal from attempting to break in to your home. Second, most dogs have excellent senses and can help you detect and locate intruders early on. Third, many dogs have strong protective instincts and will fight to protect you and your family.

As we will discuss in this section, all dogs are not equal in their security and protective capabilities. Some dogs are very alert, have excellent senses and can pinpoint an intruder long before you or your security systems are even aware of the intruder's presence. However, not all dogs are like this. It is important to get to know the strengths and weaknesses of your dog to best predict how the dog will react in a crisis situation. Some dogs might be excellent at barking to identify threats but less aggressive in a fight. Other dogs might not have as keen senses but will prove fiercely loyal when protecting their family.

The following section only provides only a very basic introduction for how to select, train and employ a security dog. If you like dogs, want to purchase and train a dedicated security dog, or want to enhance the security capabilities of a dog you already own, we encourage you to seek training opportunities from qualified professionals, preferably with experience training dogs for protection, law enforcement or military work. The advice in this section will only give you some essential basic knowledge and skills to help you get started incorporating a dog into your security plan.

There are many different philosophies and systems for training dogs and employing them in a security role. This suggestions and techniques in this section have been selected because they are some of the most simple, easy to understand and implement. However, only use techniques that make sense for your individual situation and work for you. Otherwise, adjust the techniques as needed or seek additional techniques from other training sources that are better suited to your needs.

SECURITY DOGS: DOG SELECTION

Security Dog Options and Suggestions

Below are three examples of dogs that are commonly used in security or tactical roles. German shepherds generally have great protective/herding instincts and deliver a powerful bite. However, German shepherds also generally have a calm, friendly temperament and therefore can make good family dogs. Contrary to the myths of popular culture, Dobermans also make great and loving family pets in most cases and are safe around children. Dobermans are generally very loyal, are very fast and have a powerful bite. Dobermans are also among the most intimidating dogs when it comes to scaring or deterring an intruder. Finally, the Belgian Malinois while generally smaller has become the world's leading breed for tactical dogs due to its incredible speed and combat capabilities. Unlike the German Shepherd and Doberman, the Malinois is not as well suited to be a family dog due to its very high energy. The Malinois is a good choice for an experienced handler who knows how to train and employ the dog in a tactical scenario. These are just a few options for security dogs. However, regardless of what breed you choose, not all dogs will prove effective in the security role. Dogs all have their own traits and personalities and even a dog from one of the breeds below might prove to be fearful or end up sleeping in a corner, completely oblivious to a break in. Conversely, a small, seemingly harmless dog might prove to be a great security asset by remaining constantly alert, barking at every sign of danger, and viciously harassing an intruder who breaks in. Finally, a dog's everyday behavior is not necessarily a indicator of how the dog will respond in an emergency. There have been many cases when seemingly timid dogs fought viciously and even sacrificed themselves to save their masters. Whether you already have a dog or purchase a dog specifically for security, you must understand your dog's unique personality and train the dog for the security role as much as you can.

GERMAN SHEPHERD

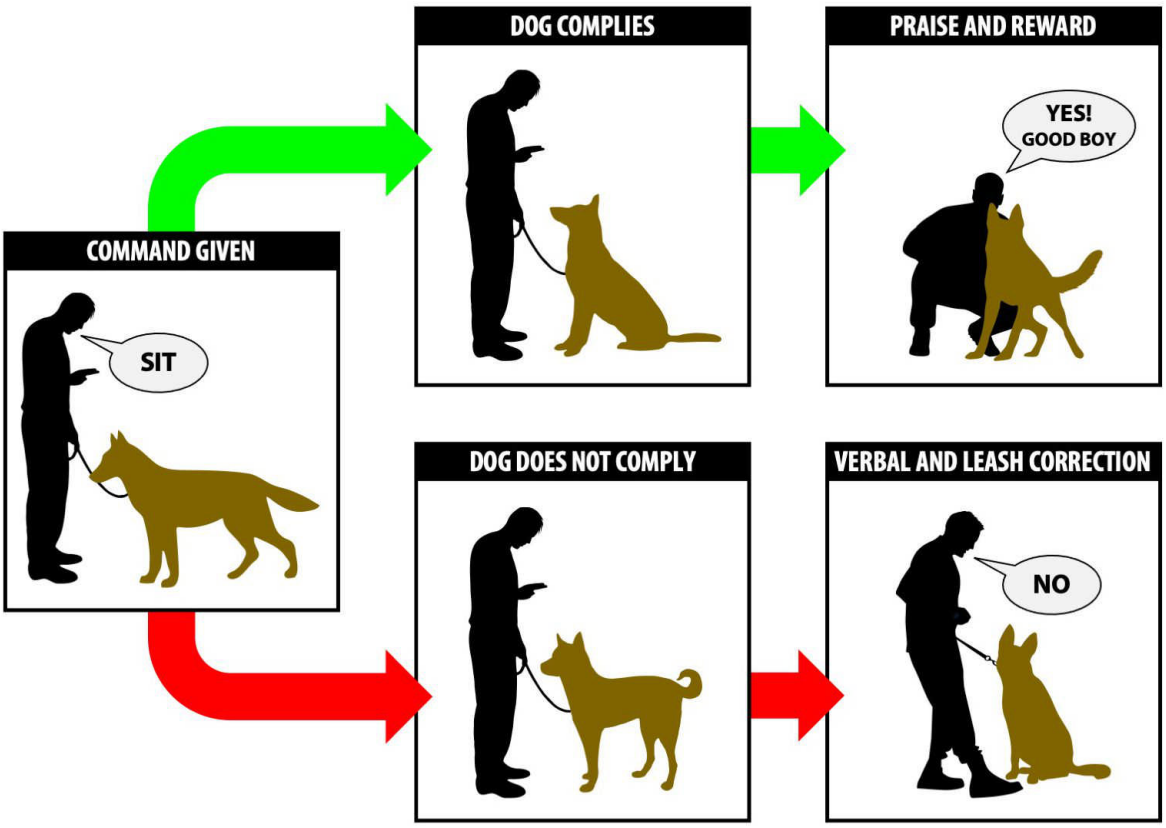
DOBERMAN PINSCHER

BELGIAN MALINOIS

SECURITY DOGS: DOG TRAINING

Basic Obedience Training

Dog training is a very complex subject that would be impossible to cover in detail in this short book. At the most basic level, having an obedient dog will generally prove more helpful in a home defense situation. You want your dog to listen when you tell it to come, stay or go outside. You can train your dog to perform most common tasks and behaviors with a simple reward/punishment approach. While there are many approaches to dog training, this is a simple one that is easy to explain and implement. Give your dog a command and reward the dog with praise and/or treats if the dog complies. If the dog does not comply you should issue a verbal correction. Another technique is to employ a training/choke collar and give a gentle tug on the leash as part of the correction. It is important that your dog learn to associate the words "yes" and "no" with praise and correction respectively. Using this method you can train your dog to obey commands more consistently. When giving commands, try to avoid giving commands multiple times over and over. Wait for the dog to respond before offering a reward and guide your dog into the right position if necessary. When, it comes to employing your dog for security purposes, it can also be useful to train your dog to respond to hand signals or commands in different languages so you are less likely to reveal your actions to intruders.



SECURITY DOGS: DOG TRAINING

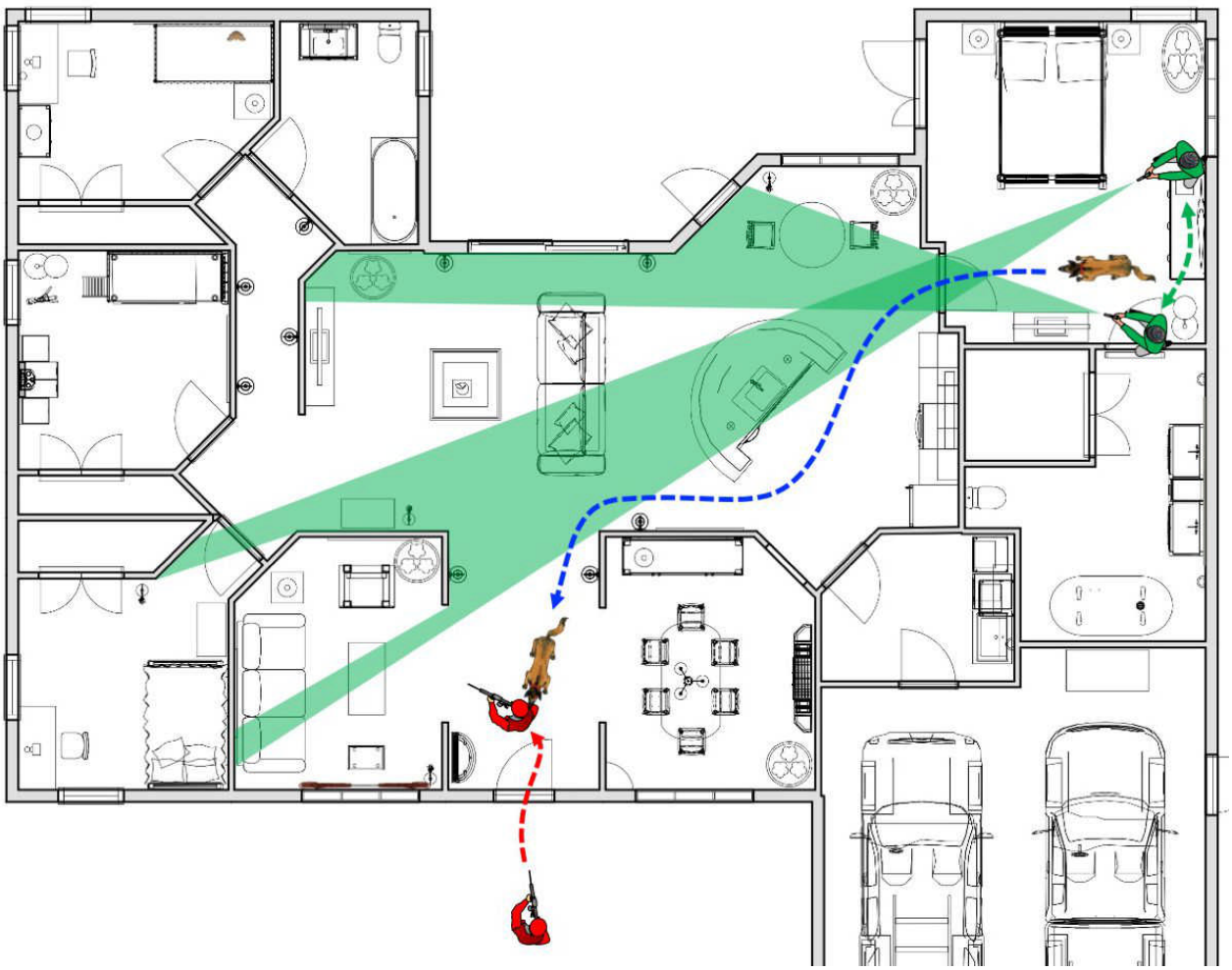
Protection Training and Bite Work

If your dog is obedient and well-behaved that does not necessarily mean the dog will be an effective security dog. In some cases you can actually train natural protective behaviors out of your dog. For example, if you are annoyed when your dog barks at squirrels, the mailman or passing cars and train the dog not to bark, the dog may not bark at an intruder in an emergency. Therefore, you should avoid training natural protective and aggressive tendencies out of your dog if you want the dog to protect you and your family. Beyond simply encouraging the dog's natural protective instincts, training an actual working dog for protection or tactical employment is a very involved process that requires time, resources, and specialized equipment such as obstacle courses, bite sleeves and bite suits. You cannot expect your household pet to behave and respond like a police or military tactical dog if it is not a special trained working dog and you are not a qualified dog handler. However, if you and your dog are willing to devote the necessary time and effort, it is possible to greatly improve your collective security and protection capabilities by training with an experienced instructor.

SECURITY DOGS: OFFENSIVE EMPLOYMENT

Using Your Dog to Scout Ahead or Intercept

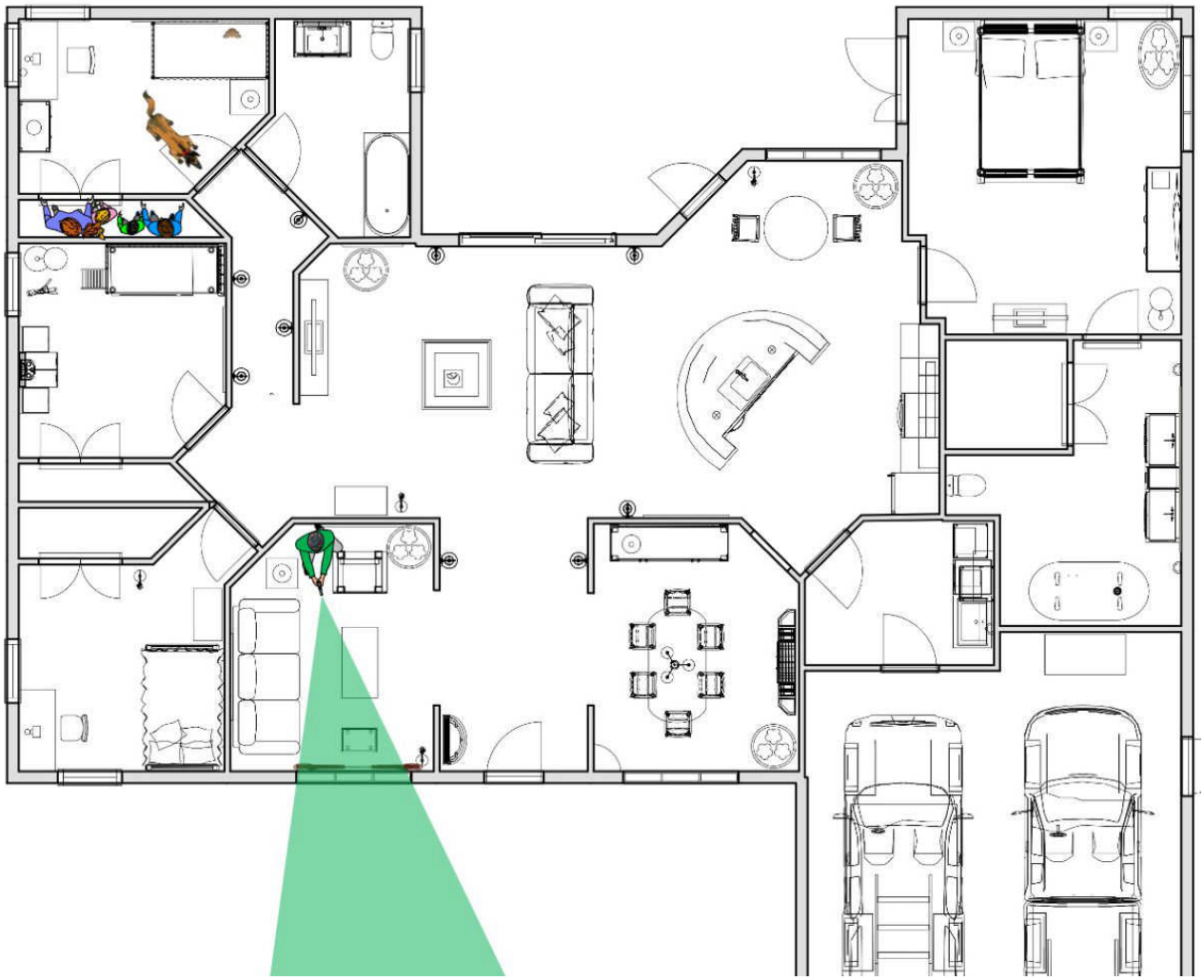
In some cases, you might opt to use your dog in an offensive role. If you establish a defensive position further back in your home, you can open the door for your dog and release the dog to go after the intruders. You can also release your dog to go outside and pursue intruders before they have a chance to enter your home. This can be a good option if your dog is a trained protection dog or has very aggressive instincts. Even if the dog does not attack the intruders, it might help you pinpoint the intruders locations, scare them away or distract them. You may want to follow the dog or change your coverage angle in order to get a clear shot at the intruders while they are distracted by the dog. Keep in mind, that if you employ your dog in this offensive role there is a chance that your dog will be killed by the intruders. However, the dog's sacrifice may save your life or your family's life.



SECURITY DOGS: DEFENSIVE EMPLOYMENT

Using Your Dog as a Last Line of Defense

If your dog is not as alert, aggressive or well-suited for offensive employment, another option is to use the dog in a defensive role. This can be particularly useful if your spouse is less capable as a fighter or does not know how to employ a firearm. By leaving your dog with your family you are offering them a last line of defense or additional deterrent against intruders in case you go down or become separated from them. However, you should also be aware that if your dog barks it may alert intruders to your family's location.



HOME DEFENSE TACTICS
Defensive Scenarios and Techniques

As discussed in the introduction of this book, the topic of home defense is too broad to be covered in any single volume or even a multi-volume series. There are simply too many variables that can come into play in a home defense scenario. This book has attempted to cover key concepts that apply to many situations that are flexible enough to be modified to fit your specific needs. This final section discusses how these various concepts might apply in a real-world home defense scenario and offers some specific techniques and tricks for gaining an advantage against an intruder.

However, once again, the following techniques and scenarios are only a small selection, primarily intended to encourage your own creative thinking about how to improve your own security. If the suggestions in this section do not apply to you, try to extract useful concepts and ideas from them and apply those same concepts and ideas to your own requirements. Before getting into specific techniques, we will first briefly discuss a few situational variables that can affect the home defense effort that we have not yet addressed in this book for the sake of simplicity.

Rural Scenarios and Large Property

The examples in this book mostly cover how to defend a medium-sized house on a medium sized plot of land in a typical American residential community. While some of our readers might live in similar conditions, many others might not. How does the security equation change if you are living in a very isolated, rural area with a large plot of land? Many of the core security concepts remain the same but you will have to adjust some of the advice in this book based on your specific situation.

First of all, you may not be able to employ a perimeter fence or cover all of your property with sensors. This means that if you decide to employ fences, outdoor obstacles, or sensors you will likely need to focus them on a smaller area within your larger property lines. A better option

might be to use your longer sightlines to your advantage. If possible, clear an area around your house so an intruder will have to cross a large open space to get to you. Make sure there are no bushes or areas of tall grass that could help mask an intruder's avenue of approach. Also look for areas where the terrain dips down (dead space) and be aware of these areas as possible hiding spots for threats.

If you have a larger piece of property it will also make sense to train to use a firearm with greater range capability and a telescopic sight. However, remember it can be more difficult to identify targets and confirm their hostile intent at long range. You want to be sure you do not accidentally engage an innocent person who wandered on to your property by mistake. Posting warning signs around your property can help avoid this problem.

Larger property can also make it easier and more practical for you to keep multiple dogs. If the dogs are well trained you can let them roam freely on your property. If you have multiple dogs patrolling your land it is unlikely an intruder will attempt to trespass and equally unlikely that he will be able to get too close to your home without being detected by the dogs.

Living in a rural area might also mean that it will take police longer to respond and those who do respond might not have as much manpower as a larger department. Therefore if you live in a rural area you might need to plan to hold off intruders yourself for a longer period until police arrive. One advantage of rural police forces is that because they have fewer citizens to protect, they might have better relationships with people in the area, better knowledge of the terrain and familiarity with your own house and property. Take the opportunity to get to know the local police and make plans to work together in an emergency situation.

Finally, should you get into a fight with intruders on your property, it will most likely look less like an urban CQB fight and more like a rural, infantry or sniper engagement. While those who live in neighborhoods or apartments should learn to move and shoot while clearing rooms and hallways, those who live in rural environments should learn to move, shoot, and fight outdoors on their property since this is where a confrontation is likely to occur. Special Tactics offers a number of books on rural combat and plans to publish more in the future.

Apartment Defense

How does the security equation change if you have no yard and are living with many other people in a multi-story apartment building? In some ways your security effort might be more simple but in other ways it can be more dangerous or complex. If your building and building staff have made an effort to implement effective security measures, you will be at a decreased risk. Some buildings require key codes for entry. Some have multiple layers of security checkpoints, doormen, security guards and/or security cameras. Your first step is to learn as much as you can about your building's existing security plans and capabilities in order to know what steps might be helpful in improving them.

Unlike a house, your security options are more constrained in an apartment building. You cannot install a security camera in the lobby without consulting other residents in the building. This need to cater to the preferences of many people can make it more difficult to improve

security. For example, some residents might not want to have a security camera or sign-in sheet in the lobby because they want to keep the names and identities of their visitors secret and do not want to have any record of past visits. Other might not want to have security guards visible on the property because they think the presence of guards is intimidating or disturbing. Regardless of how irrational people's individual desires might be, if you live with them in a building you will likely have to accommodate or at least consider their needs and opinions.

Given these challenges, you should do what you can to improve security in your building. Work with the building staff, superintendent, and any security personnel to better understand security plans and emergency procedures. In many cases these plans will either be incomplete or nonexistent. Just like in a neighborhood, get to know other people in your building and identify anyone with law enforcement, military or medical experience who might be able to help in a crisis. Find and cooperate with fellow residents who are security conscious and want to keep the building safe.

The confined spaces of an apartment can make defensive preparations simpler. If you own a dog and a pistol and reinforce exterior and interior doors as much as possible, you will probably be able to defend your apartment effectively in most defensive scenarios. Remember that apartments on higher stories have many fewer entry points than most homes so your defensive plans can focus on fewer threat courses of action.

Also consider the fact that it can be particularly dangerous to fire a weapon inside an apartment complex since bullets go through walls and you are surrounded on all sides by other residents. If possible, you might want employ ammunition that is designed for close quarters defensive scenarios and is less likely to penetrate walls. If you live with your family in an apartment, pay particular attention to how you position yourself and your family to ensure your family is out of the line of fire when you engage an intruder.

It is also important to remember that if you live in an apartment building, in many cases you are more likely to be attacked by someone who lives in your building or even someone you know. This means that building security measures might be less relevant in stopping a potential attack. It is important that you learn as much as you can about the other people living in your building and identify potential threats early on. Never invite anyone in to your apartment if you do not trust them or suspect any hostile intention.

Another critical danger of living on a higher story in an apartment building is the risk of fire or having to escape out a window if your front and/or back door are blocked. Depending on the height of your building, it can be useful to have an emergency ladder tied off to a secure anchor point to allow you to climb down to safety. However, if you live in a very tall building it might be impossible to employ a ladder long enough to get you to the ground.

Use your judgement and remember that in the case of a fire, something is better than nothing and even the dangerous prospect of climbing down several hundred feet is better than burning to death. In such extreme cases, it might be useful to purchase a rappel harness and learn to rappel down the side of your building on a rope in an emergency.

Multi-Story Houses

For the sake of simplicity and ease of explanation, most examples in this book focus on a single-story house. The principles for defending a multi-story house are largely the same but there are some other factors that come into play. First, in a multi-story house you should have plans and capability to escape through second or third story windows in an emergency. This requires tying off an emergency ladder to a strong anchor point and having the relevant tools to safely break through the window if you cannot open it easily.

Having a second or third story can also give you defensive advantages in a fight. If you live on a large piece of property, you will be better able to observe and cover the surrounding area from the elevated position of an upper-story window. In multi-story houses bedrooms are also often on the upper floors. Climbing stairs presents a tactical challenge for intruders and if you position yourself properly, you can take advantage of angles to be able to surprise an approaching intruder while maintaining better cover and concealment for yourself. Practice this by assuming different positions and having a friend or family member climb the stairs and try to spot you.

Also be aware that adding multiple stories to a tactical equation adds a third dimension to your fire and maneuver. An intruder can shoot you from below through the floor or fire down on you from above through the ceiling. If your house has balconies, lofts or other architectural design elements connecting multiple floors, that can make it more difficult for both you and an intruder to move safely and cover multiple danger areas. When possible, try to use these variables to your advantage. You know your home better than an intruder does and ideally you have had time to practice tactical movements in your house prior to a real-world confrontation.

High-Threat Areas

Most of the techniques in this book apply to relatively safe environments where violence is limited. However, in some situations you might find yourself in an area where the rule of law has largely broken down and violence is almost a constant reality. This is often the case in conflict zones or unstable regions overseas. In some places, you can hear gunfire in the street many times each day.

While this type of environment is more common in third-world countries, there are some areas within the United States that are very dangerous and have different security dynamics than most examples in this book. For example, in some extreme situations, you might find yourself in an area where local criminals, gangs or drug dealers have more power than government authorities or law enforcement officers. If you find yourself in this type of situation, either overseas or domestically, you should attempt to get away to a safer location as quickly as possible.

If you are unable to leave or escape a high-threat area you have several options. First, if you have the experience and training to defend yourself, use all assets at your disposal and make yourself as hard a target as you can. If you are not an experienced fighter you should either seek

protection from security professionals or try to draw as little attention to yourself as possible. In some areas with frequent gang violence, the gangs will be more concerned with fighting each other than they will be with hurting you unless you give them a reason do to so.

If you come into contact with criminals or other dangerous individuals, try to remain calm and avoid either showing weakness or aggression. In some cases, being very aggressive can scare off a threat but a smart adversary will likely be able to see through a bluff if you are not able to back up your words with actions. Try to deescalate the situation and get away as quickly as possible. If you are attacked, respond as aggressively as possible and attempt to catch the adversary off guard. If you are carrying a firearm, attempt to create distance between you and the adversary, get behind cover and concealment, engage the target with accurate fire and continue to break contact towards safety.

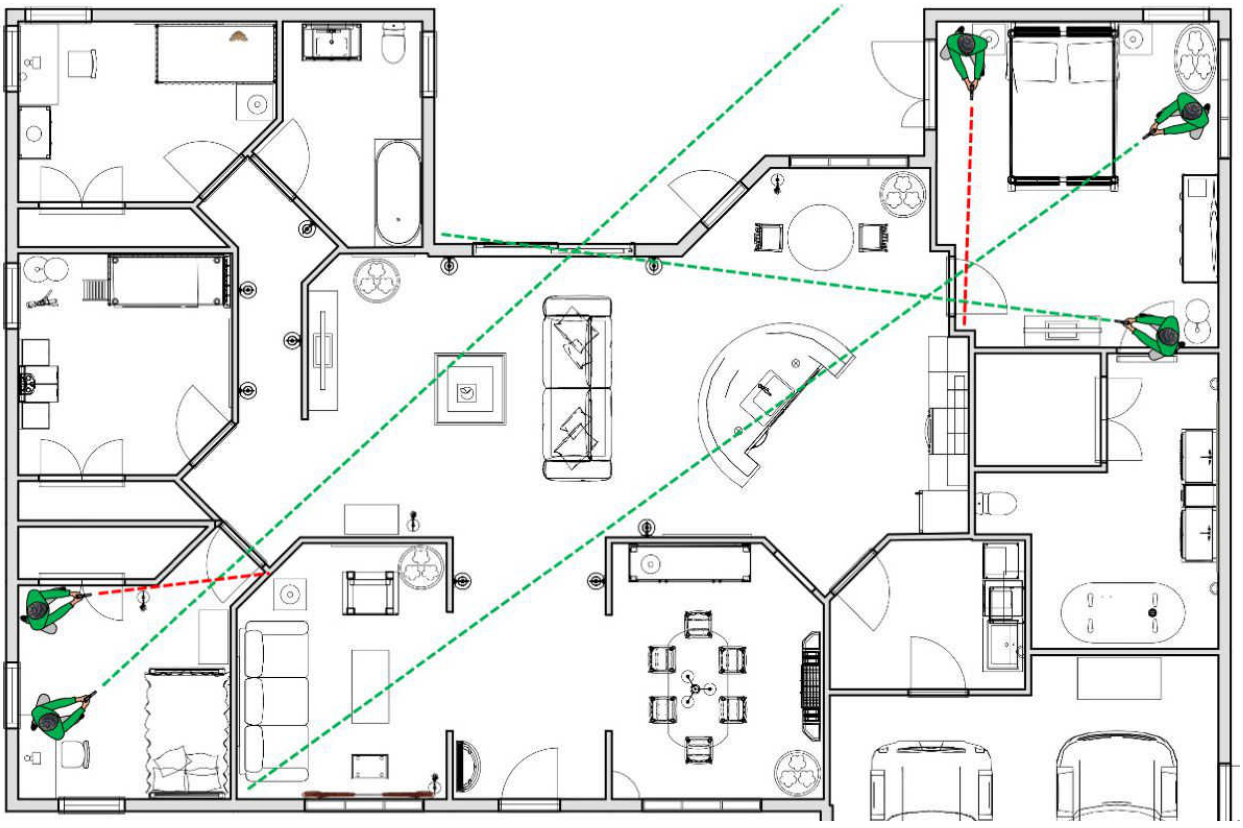
Defensive Scenarios and Techniques Summary

The scenarios described above are only a few possible situations you might find yourself in. Whatever security challenges you face, use your brain, and try to come up with the best possible plans and options to increase your safety. The following techniques offer some ways to improve your home defense capabilities and give you an edge over an intruder. Not all of these techniques might apply to you but combine them and adjust them as needed to fit your specific needs.

DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: POSITIONING

Hiding in a Corner vs. Longer Sightlines

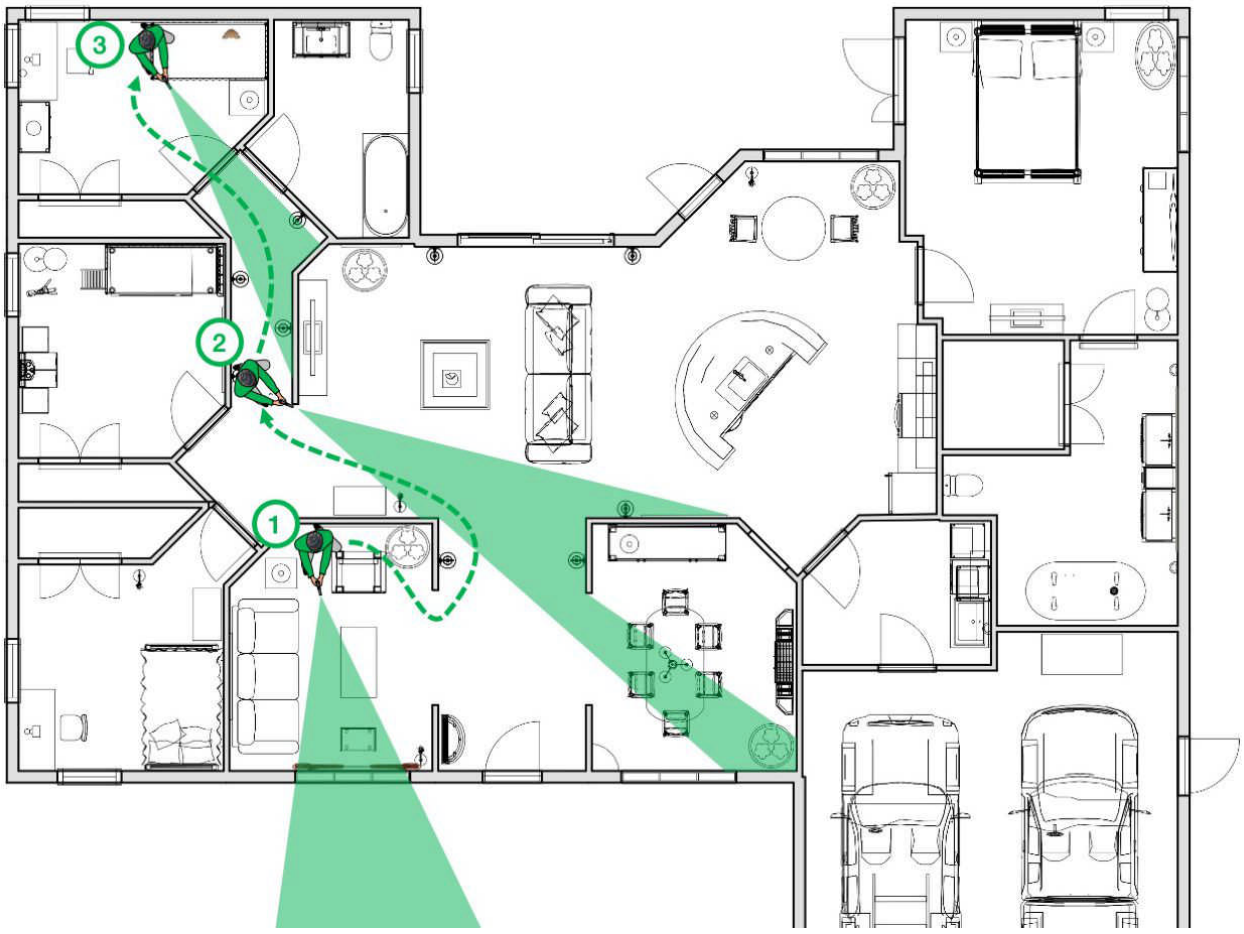
Many people mistakenly think that the best way to defend against an intruder is to wait in the corner of a room for the intruder to walk through the door. While this is an option, there are several reasons why it is often not preferable. First, by the time the intruder comes around the corner, he will be at close range and will likely be able to get a few shots off even if you succeed in shooting him. Historical examples of such close-range gun battles generally result in many bullets flying each way before one or both of the shooters goes down. Second, when hiding in a corner, unless you specifically move heavy furniture in front of you, you will likely be exposed and have less cover/concealment. You will also be stuck in one place and have little ability to monitor your surroundings and maintain your situational awareness. It is therefore preferable to identify covered and concealed positions with longer sightlines that allow you to engage the intruder at greater range. It is particularly important to remember that many intruders might run away if shots are fired on them from an unknown position. Therefore, rather than forcing the intruder into a desperate, close-quarters shootout, it is often better to engage him at range, increasing the likelihood that he will run away or at the very least delaying his advance. The green lines below give some examples of longer sightlines within a house while the red lines give examples of shorter sight lines from a corner position.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: POSITIONING

Fall Back Positions

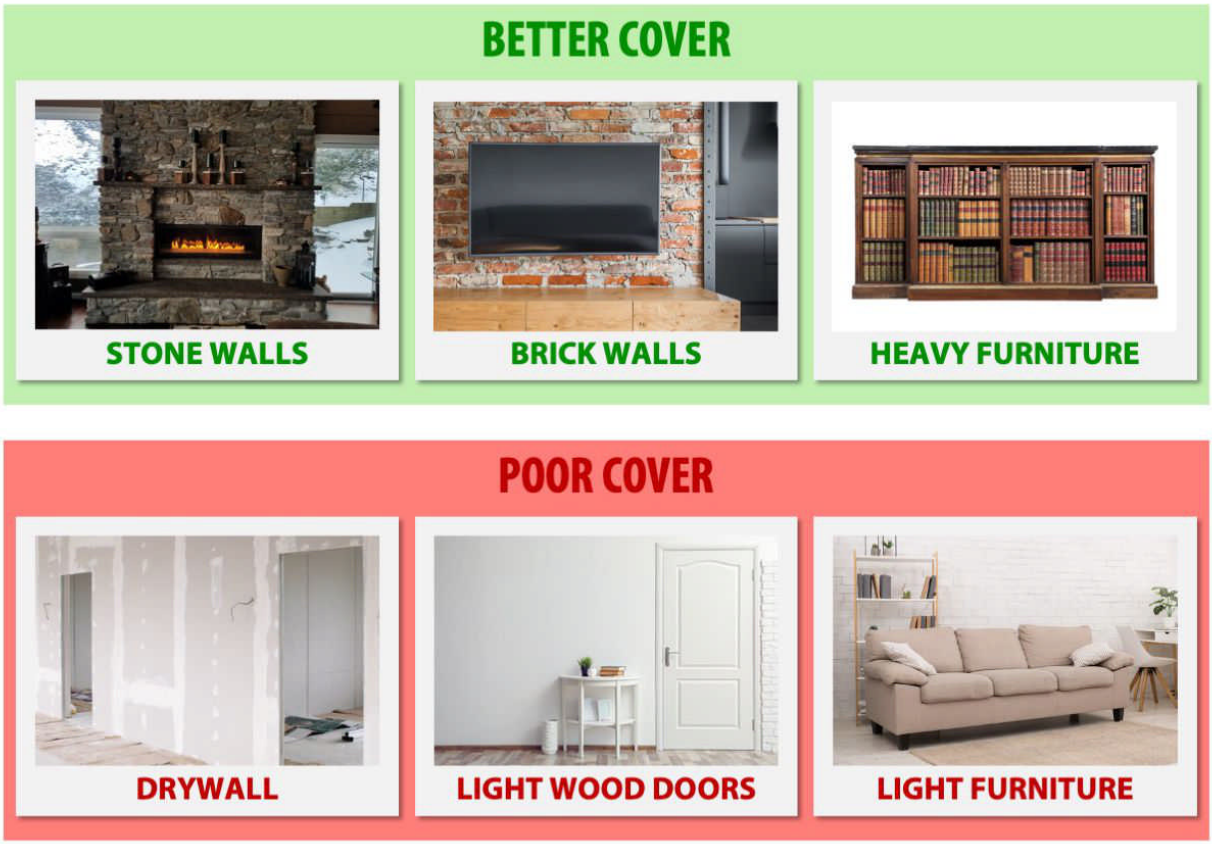
By engaging intruders at range, you increase your own mobility and situational awareness. You also have the ability to fall back to successive defensive positions as threats advance on your position. Identify some good covered and concealed positions that offer good sightlines along likely threat avenues of approach. With the help of your sensors, identify the direction intruders are coming from, move to your defensive position and engage the intruders. Remain alert for intruders coming from other directions or trying to flank around and surprise you from the side or rear. As intruders approach or flank, fall back to your next defensive position. You may want to fire a few shots to suppress the intruders before falling back. If you are operating with a partner, your partner can cover you as you fall back. By falling back in this way you offer yourself multiple opportunities to engage the intruders at range from behind cover or concealment, making it more likely that they will run away and/or buying you and your family more time to escape, hide or wait for police to arrive. The diagram below gives a general example of how you can establish multiple defensive fall back positions.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: POSITIONING

Cover and Concealment

When choosing covered and concealed positions within your house, remember that many materials used to build houses (especially interior walls) are not bulletproof and will not protect you from hostile fire. Most furniture offers relatively poor protection as well and it might be difficult to find many good covered positions in your house. Therefore, rather than using just a single wall for cover, you may want to reinforce your position with heavy furniture or bookcases etc. Remember that even if there is little cover available in your house, some cover is better than no cover. The wood and metal components used to build walls and furniture, heavy appliances and solid objects you store in cabinets are all able to stop bullets in some cases depending the angle of the shot and the speed/caliber of the projectile.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: POSITIONING

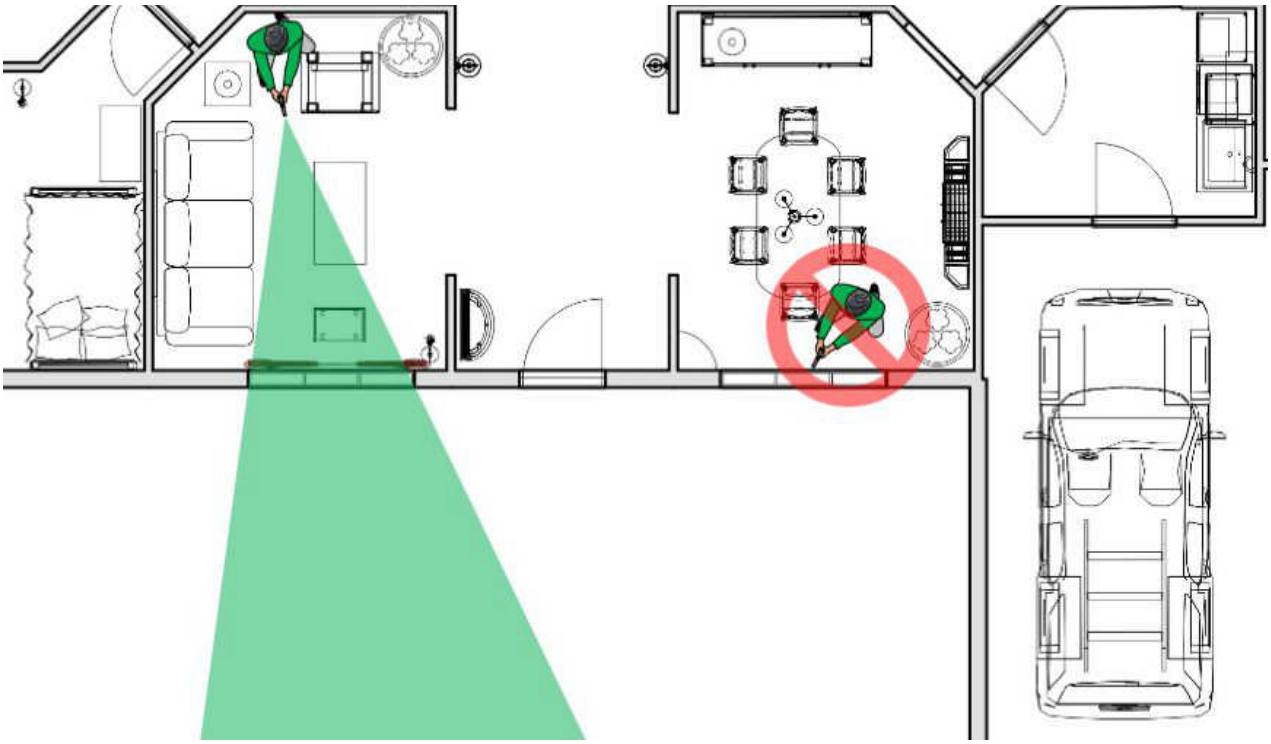
Positioning Inside the Room and Defensive Angles

When defending from inside a room, it is often better to position further back in the room than to stay close to the door. By staying back, you can move to the left and right and expose small slices of the area outside the room at a time, much like the sweep technique discussed earlier. If you position right next to the door and peek around the edge, you will be exposing yourself to much more of the adjacent room at once and you will be easier for intruders to spot. If possible, try to move pieces of furniture within the room to offer you some cover as you assume different defensive angles. The diagram below gives an example of how you can observe most of the family room from positions deeper in the master bedroom. Also note that while you may be able to see far into adjacent rooms, intruders can still crouch down to hide behind larger objects like sofas, cabinets, or countertops.

DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: POSITIONING

Firing Out Windows

While sometimes you might have no choice but to move close to a window to see or fire at a certain angle, you should avoid positioning close to windows whenever possible. Driving by neighbors houses you have likely noticed how easy it is to see someone standing in a window, especially at night if there are lights on in the house. If you stand in a window you will make an easy target for an adversary who could be hiding in any number of covered positions outside. Therefore, when possible it is better to position further back in the room. Another useful technique is to hang a very light, see-through shade on the window. A very thin shade will generally allow you to see out through the window clearly but it will be hard for people on the outside to see in. If you are firing from a second story window and need to angle your field of view further down, instead of moving closer to the window it is better to climb on top of furniture to allow you to stay further from the window.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: LIGHT AND SHADOW

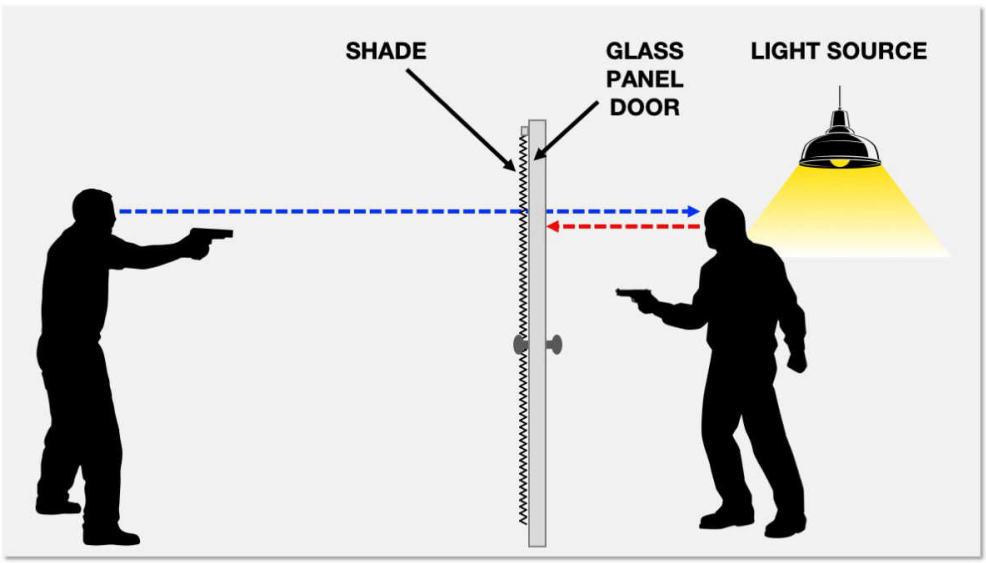
Light and Shadow During Hours of Darkness

You have likely noticed that when you have the lights on in your house at night and look outside, everything appears completely black. If you want to look outside you will generally turn out the lights inside to make it easier to see. The opposite is also true. If you drive by someone's house at night who has the lights on, you can clearly see into the house from a great distance. This phenomenon is an important factor to consider when defending your home. In the example below, the intruder (highlighted in red) is completely obscured by the night's darkness and shadow but he can clearly see the man looking out the screen door inside the house. In this situation, the man in the house is at a great disadvantage. It is therefore optimal to try to reverse the situation, emplacing lights (or motion activated lights) facing out to illuminate the surrounding terrain and blind intruders, while keeping interior lights off or dimmed. If you need to keep lights on inside your house at night because you are still up and about, it is best to employ blackout shades on windows to keep intruders from looking in. Not only will this hide you from intruders but will also make it more difficult for criminals or robbers to spy on you at night to gather information on your habits, defensive capabilities, and valuables.

DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: LIGHT AND SHADOW

Glass Paneled Doors in the Defense

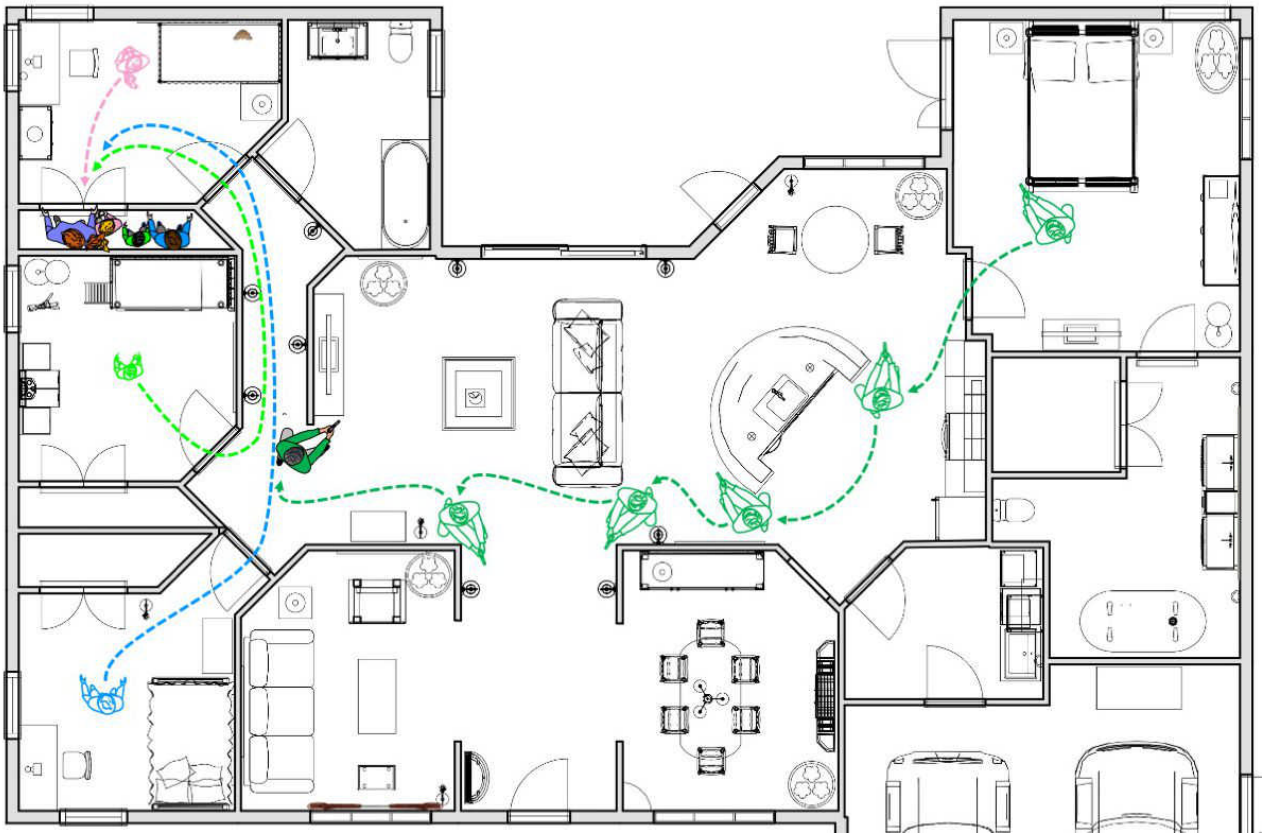
While it might seem that glass paneled doors are less preferable in a defensive scenario, they can actually prove extremely useful if you plan to defend your home with a firearm. First, you should purchase a thin, translucent shade for your glass door or choose a door with frosted glass like in the photograph. This sort of shade or glass will be impossible to see through in some situations but easy to see through in others. First, ensure that all lights are out on your side of the door and then ensure there is a strong light source further back in the room on the other side of the door. If possible, make the light difficult to turn off or employ a remote control switch that only you can access. Next, stay as far back from the door as possible. As a backlit intruder gets close to the door you will be able to see him clearly but he will not be able to see you. This will make it almost impossible for the intruder to bypass the lock on the door without getting shot. Emplacing these sorts of shades and light configurations around glass doors in your home can offer you a critical advantage in a gun fight.



DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: MOVING TO CHILDREN/FAMILY

Making Plans to Secure and Protect Family Members

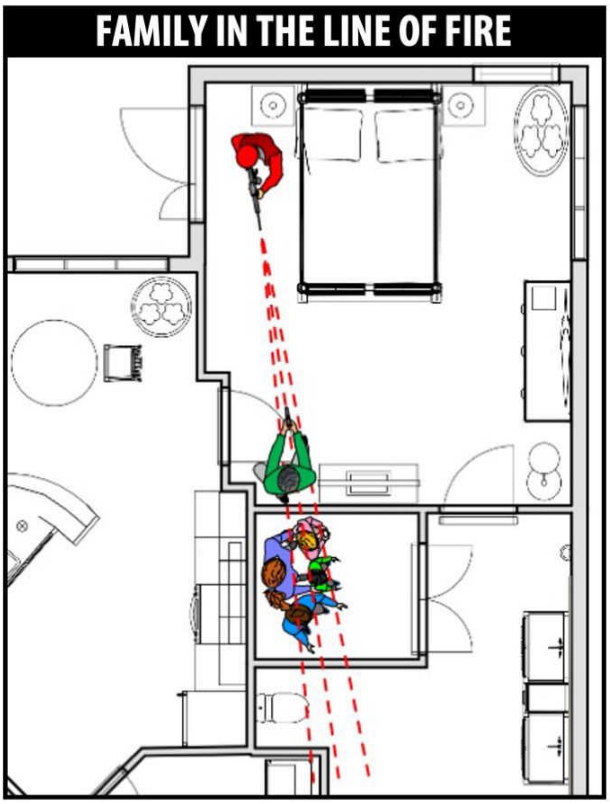
Based on the layout of your house, in many cases your room might be on one side of the house while the children's rooms are on the other side of the house. This configuration is not ideal but most houses are designed for convenience and privacy instead of tactical defensibility. Unless you have the luxury of designing your own home, you will have to deal with the configuration you have. The example below is most likely similar to many modern home configurations with the master bedroom on the extreme right of the floorplan and the children's rooms on the extreme left. Based on your anticipated threat courses of action, you must have a plan to consolidate your family in a safe location. There is no fixed way of doing this. You might decide to move to your children across your house, clearing as you go, using the singleton or two-person CQB techniques explained earlier in this book. Alternatively, you might move into a central location where you can provide cover, then have your eldest child bring the other children across to the master bedroom, bathroom, or closet. Once again there is no fixed formula and you must use your own judgement and practice various options with your family, ideally with a friend playing the role of intruder for realism.

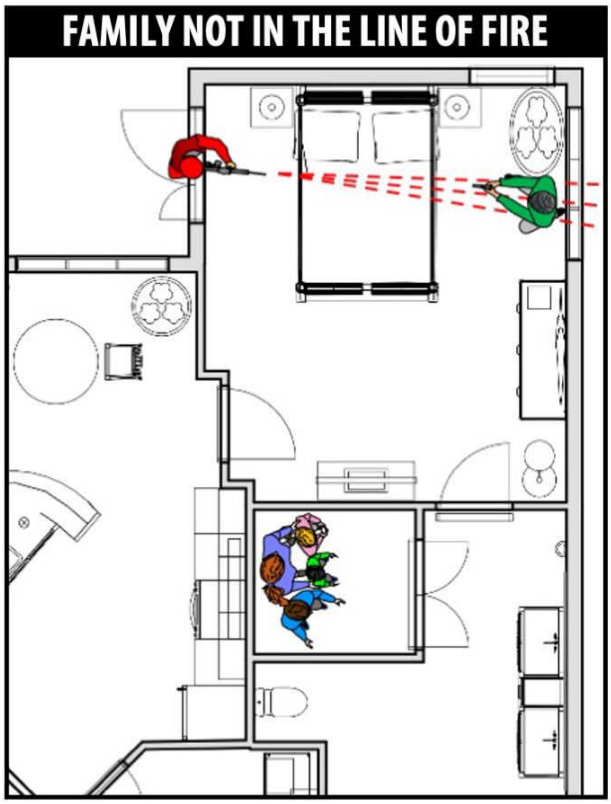


DEFENSIVE TECHNIQUES: ANGLES AND FAMILY PROTECTION

Keep Family Members out of the Line of Fire

As you develop your defensive plan, it is natural for you to end up in a defensive position where the attackers are in front of you and your family is behind you. While this might seem like a good configuration, it is actually dangerous since it puts your family in the line of fire. See the image on the lower left for an example of this. In order to reduce this risk, you may have to separate yourself from your family somewhat. While there is also a degree of risk in leaving your family alone, you must weigh that risk against the risk of drawing hostile fire in the direction of your family. You should take these factors into account when applying any of the techniques or principles in this book. While it can be effective to engage an intruder at range, if you are close to your family you might unknowingly draw hostile fire or the intruders themselves in the direction of your family. In some cases it might be better to try to draw attention away from your family. Remember, that even if you get into a gun fight with intruders and they shoot you, they may then decide to run away. So even if the intruders kill you, if the rest of your family is hidden somewhere else in the house, your family may escape the intruders' attention and survive.





FURTHER TRAINING
Courses and Resources

This book provides an overview of home defense and security. However, as mentioned in the introduction, in order to provide the most complete and relevant coverage of such a broad topic, this book covers many important topics only briefly. While this book will provide a good starting point to improving your home security in a number of ways, we strongly recommend going further to master specific tactical techniques, weapons skills and fighting skills to better protect yourself and your family. There are a variety of other Special Tactics books, both current and in production, that are designed to complement this book. For more information on these books, please visit **www.specialtactics.me.**

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